



# Devon County Newsletter

Spring 2007

## Diary Dates:

Devon County Show  
17-19 May 2007

Train Trip  
Buckfastleigh  
Tue 12 June 2007

County Rally Lympstone  
Sun 24 June 2007

Standard Bearer  
Competition  
Sun 21 October 2007

Devon County Festival  
of Remembrance  
Thu 8 November 2007

County Conference  
Sat 12 Jan 08

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

It is with regret that we announce the death of

**Len Shaw 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.

## NEW PUBLIC RELATION OFFICER

The Chairman, Brian Cumming, has appointed me as the Devon County Public Relations Officer. I am therefore writing to all Branches in the county to introduce myself and outline my thoughts for promoting the Legion both in the county, regionally and, of course, nationally.

### My background

Ex-Regular Army and TA. As a Territorial, I served for fifteen years as a member of the TA Pool of Public Information Officers and saw active service as an Army press officer in the first Gulf War and with UNPROFOR (Bosnia). I was a NATO staff Translator/Conference Interpreter with HQ Allied Forces Central Europe (AFCENT) for 26 years and was seconded to the HQ AFCENT Public Information Office 1995 and 1996. That period included several months as a press liaison officer with OSCE/HQ IFOR in Sarajevo and working on the new media operations doctrine for NATO's Central Region. I retired from active employment in 1997. I have lectured at the George C Marshall European Center for Security Studies and Media Advisor for the Confédération Internationale des Officiers de Réserve 1996-1998. I have been secretary of the Okehampton Branch since 1998.

### Promotion of the Devon county RBL

We all know the Legion has a reducing membership. Moreover, it has to compete with numerous other organizations for funds in order to carry out its primary task of helping former Service personnel and their dependants. One way to combat this is to try and keep the Legion in the public eye, especially at the local level. Ensuring that Legion activities are covered in local newspapers and on radio is a relatively easy way of achieving publicity. Local newspapers are only too keen to use this kind of material. This is where all the branches in Devon can make an easily achievable contribution. I should like to ask every branch secretary or chairman to recruit someone amongst their membership to act as a branch point of contact to identify newsworthy events and occasions of importance/interest that could be published in local media outlets including Devon magazines and advertising journals ("freebies"). If the volunteers are unable to follow up the event themselves or need advice on how best to approach the media outlets, they should contact me (Tel: 01837 840757) or speak to the County Field Officer in Exeter. Items of potential interest outside the local area would require more expertise. In this case, contact should be made in the first instant with the county PRO.

## DEVON COUNTY RALLY SUNDAY 24 JUNE 2007—CTC LYMPSTONE

This year's Rally at the CTC Lympstone will include the Dedication of the new County Standard at a Drumhead Service during the afternoon, whilst the theme of the Rally is to include something for everyone. The Rally is open to all members, their families and friends and will be a fantastic day out for everyone. In particular, we welcome children and a Bouncy Castle will be available to keep the youngest amused. Refreshment facilities and static displays will be open from 1100 and the arena displays will commence at 1400.

### Outline Programme:

**1100 Static Displays and Refreshments Facilities Open**

**1400 Arena Displays:**

Parachutist Display

RM Unarmed Combat Display

RM Drill Display

Musical Displays

**1530 Parade and Dedication of the County Standard**

**1700 Beating Retreat - RM Band.**

Branches and individuals attending the event are requested to adhere to the following administration arrangements:

**Car Parking:** The main Car Park situated outside the main gate at Lympstone is to be used and individuals should then use the footbridge to cross the road to the CTC.

**Coaches:** Coaches will be allowed to drop off and pick up inside the CTC. However, Branches are asked to advise the County Secretary if they intend to use coach travel.

**Disabled Car Parking:** Limited disabled car parking will be available within CTC. Individuals wishing to use the disabled car parking facility should inform the County Secretary.

**Identification:** Legion members are asked to carry their Membership Cards, non members should have some form of photographic ID and should also be accompanied by a Legion member who can vouch for the individual. A check of ID will be made on entry to CTC.

**Standard Bearers:** Branches are strongly encouraged to send their Standard Bearer to the Parade and Dedication. Standard Bearers will be provided with refreshment vouchers. Branches are asked to inform the County Secretary of their Standard Bearers attendance.

**Stalls/Exhibits:** Stalls holders and exhibitors will allowed access to set up from 0900.

Branches requiring any further information should contact the County Secretary or the CFO.

## 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

## County Field Officer's Notes

### WELFARE

**Caseworker Annual Updating:** Those who have not yet confirmed their attendance are reminded to do so, please, sooner rather than later. Programme remains unchanged as follows:

- Sat 21 Apr, at Braunton RBL Club.
- Sat 9 Jun, at Crownhill RBL Club.
- Sat 6 Oct at Wyvern Barracks Exeter.

**Volunteer Welfare Caseworker Training Course:** 16 new caseworkers were trained in Exeter on 17-18 Feb, and a further 3 in Somerset in mid March. This brings our total of Volunteer Caseworkers to a very healthy 140.

**Specialist Welfare Caseworker Training Course:** 19 new Specialist Caseworkers were trained in Exeter on 07 Mar bringing our total to 52.

**New Cases.** Perhaps not surprisingly the number of new cases reaching the County Office has witnessed an approximate 25% increase in the first 5 months of the legion year, as against the same period last year. Last Monday saw a record 12 new cases in one day.

### FUNDRAISING

**Poppy Appeal 2006** As at Fri 23 Mar our total stood at £598,827, nearly £0.6m. Nationally the total stands at £24.8m.

**Banking of Poppy Appeal Funds** Branches and PAOs are reminded that money due to the Poppy Appeal should be remitted as quickly as possible to Aylesford on paying-in slips via either Barclays ABC or "Transcash" at most Post Offices. Under no circumstances should it be remitted into any other account (eg: local RBL Branch, or a locally controlled account).

**Poppy Appeal Launch 2007** Scheduled for Fri 26 Oct at HMS Raleigh, Torpoint. Breaking with tradition we will join forces with Cornwall RBL to hold a colourful Launch at HMS Raleigh, incorporating as many Branch Standards as possible (please), RN trainee recruits, the RM band, and (hopefully) local TV attendance.

### MISC

**Gazebo Bookings:** The county's gazebo remains at the County Office, available to be booked.

### **Poppy Appeal Organiser**

#### **Briefings 2007:**

Scheduled for 1900 hrs:

Wed 12 Sep, in North Devon,  
location tbc.

Wed 19 Sep, in West Devon,  
Baylis Suite, Tamar Science Park,  
Plymouth.

Wed 26 Sep, in East Devon:  
Victorian Suite, Devon Hotel,  
Exeter.

### **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

**THE ROYAL  
BRITISH LEGION  
DEVON COUNTY**

3 Barnfield Crescent  
Exeter  
EX1 1QT

Phone: 01392 272211  
Fax: 01392 273444

rjennings@britishlegion.org

**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

**NORTH TAWTON  
85th ANNIVERSARY  
SUNDAY  
8 JUL 07 10.30  
OPEN AIR SERVICE  
AND PARADE OF  
STANDARDS**

**ALL BRANCHES ARE  
REQUESTED TO SEND  
THEIR STANDARDS  
FURTHER  
INFORMATION  
FROM  
MR D BALE  
01395 273065**

THE ROYAL BRITISH  
**LEGION**



**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.

**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.

**Membership Application Forms**

The current version of the Membership Form is MS4/06a. If Branches have run out of them you can get a new supply from Supply Line on 01622 795815. Membership applications on any other type of form have to be returned to the Branch Secretary because the Data Input Centre will not accept them. Having to return them to Branch Secretaries is frustrating for all of us and a waste of all our time. We have had a number of applications on the thin blue form MS4/01a; if you are holding any of these forms please throw them away because they are out of date. The main reasons for amendments to documents such as the MS4 are a change to the affiliation fee and also to comply with the Data Protection Act. Because of recent changes in the Data Protection Act, legally the only acceptable version of the MS4 is the latest version - MS4/06a.

**NORMANDY RN/RM MEMORIAL ANNUAL SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE**

On Wednesday 6 Jun 2007 a Service of Remembrance will be held at Ouistreham in France in honour of the crews of the landing vessels which took part in the D Day Landings in June 1944 and afterwards to the end of World War Two. All welcome, Services, Ex Services, groups, individuals and families and friends. Standards especially welcome. For more information please contact:  
Maurice Hillebrandt 01395 442800

**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**