



Devon County Newsletter

Autumn 2007

Diary Dates:

Standard Bearer Competition
Sun 21 October 2007

Poppy Appeal Launch
HMS Raleigh
Fri 26 October 2007

Devon County Festival of
Remembrance
Thu 8 November 2007

Combined Services Rugby
v Barbarians
Plymouth
Tue 14 November 2007
In aid of Poppy Appeal

County Conference
Sat 12 January 2008

Train Trip
Buckfastleigh
Tue 10 June 2008

Golf Day
1 August 2008

Legion Race Day
21 October 2008

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

It is with regret that we announce the deaths of:

Mr R Goddard of the Uffulme Branch
Mr J Henry of the Dawlish Branch
Mr J Ryan of the Sidbury & Sidford Branch

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

The National Chairman has recently approved the following awards:

National Certificate of Appreciation

Arthur Frederick Bright - Alphington and District Branch

Gold Badges

Samuel John Blake - Alphington and District Branch
Theresa Salter - West Hill Branch
Francis Toulcher - Newton Abbot Branch

Broken Covenant Campaign.

Many will be aware that RBL recently launched the Broken Covenant Campaign, designed to bring pressure upon the Government to address a series of serious shortcomings in its duty of care towards its serving Service personnel, and Veterans. This campaign depends upon public support for its success. To this end we need to lobby our MPs, demonstrating to them the strength of feeling of their constituents, about the raw deal that our Service personnel are currently receiving from the State that sends them so readily into operations. What can we do? By using the information provided for us (by either consulting www.britishlegion.org.uk or asking the County Office for information):

Personal level: Write to your MP, or better still visit him / her, and state your feelings. Encourage others to do as above.

Branch level: Invite your MP to visit your Branch, and state your collective feelings.

County level: Lobby however / whenever possible.

DEVON COUNTY WEB SITE

<http://rbldevon.co.uk>

DEVON COUNTY FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE THURSDAY 8 November 2007

Devon County Royal British Legion will hold its annual Festival of Remembrance in the Great Hall, University of Exeter, on Thursday 8 November 2007 at 7:30pm.

All Devon Branches of the Royal British Legion and Women's Sections are requested to be represented and Branches are invited to send their Standard to take part in the Muster.

Tickets for the Festival are available from the County Secretary at £6.00 each for members and £8.00 each for non-members. Standard Bearers parading with their Branch Standard may attend free of charge.

COUNTY GOLF TOURNAMENT



Dan Tompkins receiving his Prizes from the County Chairman

An excellent day at Holsworthy Golf Course in aid of the Poppy Appeal was enjoyed by the County's golfers. Dan Tompkins was the overall winner with Mike Smith in second place, closely followed by Dave Pope and Tim Clark.

The Tournament is now a regular feature of the County calendar and 40 golfers took part this year. The event is sponsored by local firms and is expertly organised by Martin Heslip.

The event raised over £500 for the Poppy Appeal

HARTLAND VETERANS DAY A VILLAGE SUCCESS

Hartland Branch brought the whole village together by providing a Veterans Day event for everyone. Two local Bands provided the music, with stalls, displays and children's entertainment. The highlight of the afternoon was the March Past by Uniformed Youth Organisations and the evening was dedicated to entertainment and a short service for the Veterans in the Club.



The County Directory, Photo Album and the Newsletter are published on
Devon County Web Site: <http://rbldevon.co.uk>

County Field Officer's Notes

WELFARE

Caseworker Annual Updating: The last remaining course for this year will be in Exeter on Sat 06 Oct. The course letter has been sent to all relevant caseworkers. Attendance confirmation soonest please.

Volunteer Welfare Caseworker Training Course: Our next training course is scheduled for 16 - 17 Feb 08. All nominations should be submitted to the CFO please. Our requirement lies mainly in Plymouth and Torbay. Most other areas do not need additional caseworkers.

Specialist Welfare Caseworker Training Course: There is not a course scheduled at this juncture. We will schedule a course when we have enough contenders.

New Cases. 98 new cases in August. At this rate we could reach 900 new cases in 2007.

Manual Wheelchairs. Branches will have seen the recent edict from Pall Mall stipulating that manual wheelchairs should no longer be held at Branch or Club level. This edict was strongly opposed at County level, nationwide, and we understand is now being 're-thought'. We therefore advise that Branches and Clubs do nothing for the time being, and until further notice.

FUNDRAISING

Community Fund Raiser (CFR). We are delighted to welcome Mrs Carole Arnold to the new Part Time post of Community Fundraiser. Carole will be working with us to help optimise the Poppy Appeal in Devon, and assist the CFO who currently doubles as the County Poppy Appeal Coordinator (CPAC).

County Train Trip. Congratulations and thanks to Ron and Margaret Reynolds, and their team of tireless helpers, for pulling off another hugely successful train trip on 12th June, raising a total of £1063.

Poppy Appeal Organiser Briefings 2007: A total of 83 people attended our 3 Briefings for this year, an event that is designed to optimise our Poppy Appeal in Devon, and share good ideas and knowledge. All are thanked for their attendance and interest.

Combined Devon and Cornwall Poppy Appeal Launch, Fri 26 Oct, HMS Raleigh, Torpoint. Preceded by PR / media interviews at 1300 hrs, the event itself will consist of a RN / RBL combined parade at 1400 hrs, followed by a Buffet Reception at the United Services Club in Torpoint at 1530 hrs approx. For reasons of limited funding, attendance is for **local to Plymouth area:**

Branch officers (3 per Branch).

PAOs.

Standard Bearers (x 10 max, including Women's Section).

And the County Management Committee (x 15).

Names of all those intending to participate (from above attendance) to County Secretary (01392 272211) soonest please. Anyone else wishing to attend the Parade but **not** the Buffet Reception will be **most welcome**, and there is no need to inform the County Secretary of their names.

County Rally. Congratulations and thanks to all concerned with the planning, conduct, and attendance of what was another superb County Rally, this time at Lympstone, by kind invitation of The Royal Marines.

Military Support to Remembrance Day Parades. Following the decline of the Northern Ireland problem, and in line with recent concerns of MOD chiefs regarding lack of military exposure to and recognition from the public, it has been suggested that Devon RBL should make more use of uniformed military presence at Remembrance Day parades. This already occurs at some events, but perhaps there is scope for more such uniformed participation. We already ask much of our Armed Service units within county for Poppy Appeal assistance during Remembrance week, but, if Branches wish to approach their local units direct with a proposal to participate in a local parade, then they are encouraged to do so.

In aid of the Poppy Appeal
Plympton and District will be holding
a
REMEMBRANCE CONCERT
with the
SMALL HOUSE BRASS BAND
on
Wednesday 7 November 2007
at
ST MARYS CHURCH PLYMPTON
Tickets available at the door

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DEVON COUNTY**

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**REMEMBRANCE
VISITS**

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

RBL Branton
Festival of
Remembrance

CONCERT

Thursday
1st November 2007
7.30 pm at
Christchurch Branton
featuring
The Barnstaple Jubilee
Singers and The
Barnstaple Concert
Band

THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION



County Secretary's Column

Membership Application Forms

The current version of the Membership Form is MS4/07 which can be obtained from Supply Line on 01622 795815. Membership applications on any other type of form now have to be returned to the Branch Secretary because the Data Input Centre will not accept any other version of the form. The main reason for the change of form is the requirement to comply with the Data Protection Act. Recent changes in the Data Protection Act, has meant that legally the only acceptable version of the MS4 is the latest version - MS4/07.

County Conference

The County Conference will take place at Honiton RBL Club on 12 January 2007 at 1pm. Branches are reminded that Motions for Conference are to be submitted by 9 November 2007. It is expected that this year's speaker will be the new Director General.

Ivybridge Branch Poppy Launch

The Old Smithy Ivybridge Friday 26 October 2007 at 8.30 pm

Entertainment by 'Le Band' and official launch by
Lt Col Ewen Southby-Tailyour OBE RM

All proceeds to the Poppy Appeal and entry is free

Further information from David Davis 01752 690647

COUNTY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The next County Committee Meeting will be held in the Alphington RBL Club on:
Saturdays: 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.



TRAFALGAR DAY SERVICE
SUNDAY 21st OCTOBER 2007

This year the Service will be at Exeter Cathedral on Sunday 21st October at 11.30am.
The address will be given by the Chaplain of the Fleet.
Music will be provided by a Band from the Royal Marines.

The Service will be attended by the Lord Lieutenant, The Lord Mayor of Exeter, and other dignitaries including serving senior officers. The Commander Amphibious Task Group will read the first lesson.

Because it is also the 25th anniversary of the Falklands Conflict, the Service will include the Falklands Prayer which will be read by the Commanding Officer of HMS Exeter. There is also a possibility that the Ship's Company of HMS Exeter will exercise their Freedom of the City prior to the Service.

All members of the British Legion and their families are most welcome
to come to this very special Service.