



Devon County Newsletter

Spring 2008

Diary Dates:

Train Trip
Buckfastleigh
Tue 10 June 2008

Veterans Day
Plymouth
29 June 2008

Golf Day
Fri 1 August 2008

Legion Race Day/
Poppy Launch
Tue 21 October 2008

Festival of
Remembrance
Thu 6 November 2008

Parracombe WW1
Railway /Armistice Day
event.
Tue 11 Nov 2008

County Conference
Sat 10 January 2009

County Rally - Okehampton
Sun 13 September 2009

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

It is with regret that we announce the deaths of:

Mr A James of the Brixton Branch
Mr J Ross of the Kentisbere 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.

STANDARD BEARERS COMPETITION

The County Standard Bearers recently took part in an excellent competition at Honiton.



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

BRANCH RECRUITMENT

The Killmington Branch of the Royal British Legion (RBL) was awarded the South Molton Cup for recruiting 27 new members in the Financial Year 2006/7, better than any other Branch in Devon. The County Field Officer asked me to record how this was achieved in the hope that it will give some ideas to other Branches, particularly the smaller ones, on how to arrest declining membership.

In a village with a population of just under 800, the Killmington Branch enjoyed good support from residents over many years. However, membership dropped to under 100 seven years ago and then declined to 83 by the time that a new Committee was elected at the AGM in December 2006. At its first Branch General Meeting, it was decided to stage a major recruitment drive, the main elements of which were to organise:

- a A Presentation on the RBL in the Village Hall for publicity and recruitment purposes.
- b Personal invitations written to those identified by Committee members as potential candidates for membership.
- c A Newsletter every two months giving details of RBL news and activities.
- d Monthly "Get Togethers", alternating between the two pubs in the Village, on the first Friday of the month at 1800 hours utilising the "buy your own" principle.
- e Coaches in support of Devon County RBL events.
- f In addition to the Spring and Autumn Coffee mornings, annual outing, annual BBQ and annual lecture, all of which raised funds for the Poppy Appeal, to arrange coffee for all those attending the Armistice Day ceremonies on the Village Playing Field and a coach to a local hostelry so that members could enjoy lunch after the Remembrance Sunday Service, which alternates between the Anglican and Baptist Churches.
- g Continuing recruiting efforts by writing to selected residents in the Village and visiting new comers.

These measures proved highly successful; the Presentation in the Village Hall by the County Field Officer and County Secretary was well attended attracting some new members, and it was very informative to every one, including members from other local Branches; the 70 personal invitations sent out resulted in a good number of membership applications; many compliments were received about the Newsletters which are distributed by Committee members acting as "Shepherds" to the members on their list, and these have proved useful in enclosing with letters to prospective members; the monthly "Get Togethers" have also proved to be a good source of recruitment as the locals see members enjoying themselves and talking about Legion activities; the coaches have allowed members to enjoy the RBL Poppy Train Outing, the Devon County Rally and Festival of Remembrance events as well as the Remembrance Sunday lunch.

In spite of recent deaths among our elderly members, our Branch membership stands at 106, pretty good for a small Village. During the Poppy Appeal last November, £1759 was raised from house to house, static point and church collections, to which £185 has been added as tax rebate from gift aid envelopes; this was some £250 up on the previous year, attributed to the amount of publicity that we gave to the "Honour the Covenant" campaign and the greater awareness of the problems faced by our Armed Forces operating in Iraq and Afghanistan. This year we are hoping to beat the total of £1236 raised through our own special event fund raising efforts for the Poppy Appeal.



Killmington Branch Chairman Brain Lavender receives the Branch Recruiting Cup

B W LAVENDER
Chairman (Killmington Branch)

FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER (CM)**WELFARE**

Volunteer Welfare Caseworker Training Course: 11 new Caseworkers were trained on the recent course in Exeter, 16th-17th February. Importantly, 4 are from Plymouth, our busiest area. We now have over 150 volunteer Caseworkers in the County, together with 58 x Professionals. This number is sufficient to cover most areas in Devon, less Plymouth and Torbay.

Professional Welfare Caseworker Training Course: There is no course scheduled at the moment, but when we acquire enough names we will schedule accordingly. RBL has recently changed the name of this type of Caseworker from 'Specialist' to 'Professional'.

Welfare Workload. Averaging 89 new cases per month so far this year.

County Staff. The previously announced replacement to Deborah Swift as County Welfare Officer did not materialise. This position is currently being advertised.

FUNDRAISING

2007 County Total. Whilst the total is still rising we can all rejoice in the knowledge that we are not that far short of exceeding the previous year's total by £100k. Yes, our total as at mid February was £720,526, and nationally £27.7m.

Caseworker Annual Updating 2008

All caseworkers are invited to attend one of the following courses in 2008:

Saturday 26th April, at Braunton RBL Club.

Saturday 7th June, at Crownhill RBL Club.

Saturday 4th October, at Wyvern Barracks, Exeter.

COUNTY INDIVIDUAL AWARDS FOR 2007 PRESENTED AT THE COUNTY CONFERENCE

David Davis receives the
75th Anniversary Cup



Huw Matthews receives The Rose Bowl

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**Veterans Day
29 June 2008
Plymouth Hoe**

Weekend of
Service / Veterans
activities in
Plymouth with a
parade of Standards
on Sunday 29 Jun 08

All members,
Standard Bearers,
friends and families
are welcome

Festival of Remembrance - The Royal Albert Hall - 8 November 2008

Individuals wishing to attend the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall should apply through their Branch Secretary. Branch Secretaries should apply to the County Office with a covering payment of £10 per ticket (cheques made payable to Devon County RBL) no later than 29 August 2008.

Cenotaph Parade and Service - Whitehall - 9 November 2008

Members wishing to attend the parade in Whitehall should apply to the County Secretary by 29 August 2008. Members are reminded of the physical demands of standing in Whitehall for at least an hour and then marching a distance of at least 1½ miles, possibly in inclement weather.

National Training Courses

Details of national training courses available are listed below:

Course	Location:	Dates
County Management 1-08	Leeds	28 – 30 Mar 08
Independent Examiners' 1-08	Leeds	18 – 19 Apr 08
Branch Treasurers' 2-08	Leeds	6 – 9 Jun 08
Branch Management 2-08	Bracknell	20 – 22 Jun 08
Qualified Panel Members'	Leeds	4 – 6 Jul 08
County Conference Committee 2-08	Leeds	18 – 20 Jul 08
County Management 2-08	Bracknell	5 – 7 Sep 08
County Instructors'	Leeds	19 – 21 Sep 08
Standard Bearer Judges'	Hermitage	19 – 21 Sep 08
Independent Examiners' 2-08	Bracknell	17 – 18 Oct 08
Branch Treasurers' 3-08	Bracknell	21 – 23 Nov 08
Branch Management 3-08	Leeds	5 – 7 Dec 08

COUNTY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The 2008 County Committee Meetings will be held in the Alphington RBL Club on:
Saturdays: 1 Mar 08, 14 Jun 08, 27 Sep 08 and 29 Nov 08 at 1030 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 GOLF TOURNAMENT

Friday 1 August 2008

Holsworthy Golf Course

Team and Individual Competitions

For further information

contact the County Sports Officer Martin Heslip

07875 587017 or Golf_56@hotmail.co.uk

THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION

