



Devon County Newsletter

Summer 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

Inside this issue:

Around the County	2
CM Notes	3
Secretary's Column	4

ANNOUNCEMENTS

It is with regret that we announce the deaths of:

Mr E Osborne of the West Hill Branch
Mr S Dalton of the Dawlish 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 family.

BRANCH FUNDS INITIATIVE

Branches will have recently received details with the last Legion Letter of the administration arrangements for depositing Branch Funds in a Head Office held account. The County Committee fully supports this initiative and would recommend to all Branches who have excess funds in their accounts that they make use of this high interest gaining facility which will provide additional funds for our welfare needs. The Head Office facility should be easy to use without the need to approach the County Office and should be looked on as an additional bank account available via the telephone, post or email. Surplus funds should be deposited with Head Office no later than the 1 October 2008.

Whilst some Branches may have concerns that establishing funds with Head Office is restrictive, we would ask Branches to consider that all Branch Officers and Members are trustees of our charitable funds and are therefore required by the Charities Commission to obtain the best possible return for those funds held in trust. Branches who feel that excess funds should be held locally may wish to contribute to the County Welfare Fund where funds will be utilized locally for welfare cases. Additionally, Branches will be able to contribute to the County Welfare Fund, Poppy Appeal and other Legion welfare funds directly from their Head Office Accounts.

The County Committee would ask that all Branches abide by this directive from the Board of Trustees and participate fully with the initiative.

POPPY APPEAL

2007 Devon County Poppy Appeal Total

Devon County: £753,113.32

National: £30m

**A hugely impressive result, for which many congratulations
and thanks to all concerned:**

DEVON COUNTY WEB SITE

<http://rbldevon.co.uk>



PLYMOUTH CITY MODEL SHOW

The Plymouth City Model Show presented a cheque for £510.00 to the Poppy Appeal. This money was collected at last years show and presented in March of this Year to Mr Alan Tapper Chairman of the Crownhill Branch and Mr C Hill PAO. This presentation lead to permission being granted for the Poppy People recruitment team to attend this years show on 26 April 2008. As well as recruiting a number of Poppy People £76.67 was raised by donation from the show attendees.

DARTMOOR REMEMBRANCE

A service was held near Lydford on Dartmoor to remember Captain Nigel Duncan Ratcliffe Hunter MC and Bar, RE. His home was Okehampton and loved walking Dartmoor especially around Lydford. Commissioned as a regular officer from RMA Woolwich August 1914. Served on the Western Front until 25 March 1918 when he was killed in action, aged 23. He wrote poetry and memorial plaque marks the spot he mentions in one of last his poems. Lydford Parish Council maintain the plaque and have a memorial service at the location each Remembrance Sunday. This year's ceremony commemorated the 90th anniversary of his death.



HARTLAND WOMEN'S SECTION CELEBRATE DIMOND ANNIVERSARY

Hartland Women's Section celebrated their 60th anniversary in May and the only surviving member; 100 year old Dorothy Hearn was among the guests. The Women's Section Hartland Branch is one of the most pro active in the County and raised over £1000 for the RBL last year. It is also one of the largest Branches with 170 members. The day was celebrated with a tea party and attended by the President Dame Mary Bridges and the County Chairman Sue Stevens.

NATIONAL YOUTH STANDARD COMPETITION

17 year old Ben Stephens recently took third place in the National Youth Standard Bearers' Competition held in Nottingham, Accompanied by his parents and Devon County Parade Marshal Bob Nelson, Ben performed exceptionally well against four other youngsters from across the country. The standard was extremely high with the first three competitors keeping everyone guessing until the final score was announced. Ben, is a Cadet Sergeant with the Air Training Corps and has been deputy Standard Bearer for Okehampton Branch since 2007. He hopes to join the RAF as a winchman after completing his 6th Form studies at Okehampton College.



FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER (CM)**Caseworker Annual Updating 2008:**

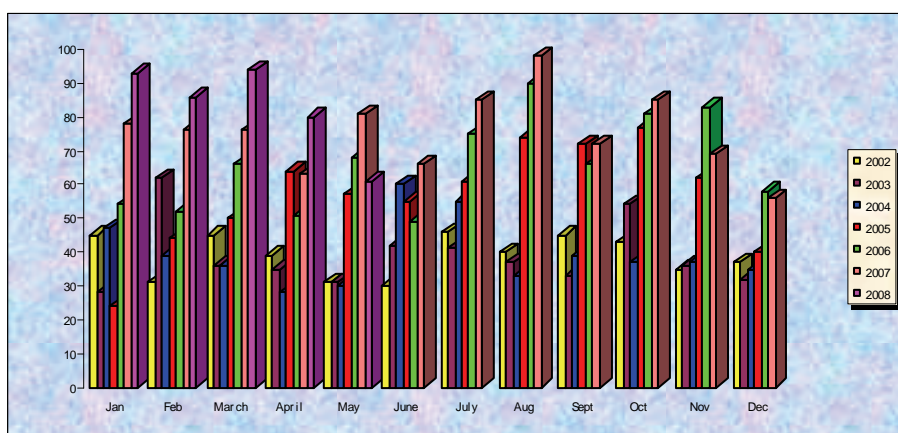
Saturday 26th April, at Braunton RBL Club: 22 caseworkers attended.

Saturday 7th June, at Crownhill RBL Club: 25 nominations to date, more awaited.

Saturday 4th October, at Wyvern Barracks, Exeter: 15 nominations thus far, many more awaited!

Professional Welfare Caseworker Training Course: We have 14 x nominations to date, and hope to schedule a course for the summer. Details tbc.

Welfare Workload. Now averaging 82 new cases per month, having had a relatively quiet month of May (only 60 cases). Historical details on graph below:

**County Staff.**

County Welfare Officer (full time): Mrs Amanda Mendoza has replaced Mrs Deb Swift. Amanda previously held a Temp position as County Manager's Assistant (CMA).

CMA: Miss Petra Soper has recently assumed this new post, that had been occupied by a Temp for the previous 2 years.

Part Time CMA: Very sadly Mrs Mary Smale has decided to retire. This position is currently being advertised.

RBL/CAB Benefits and Money Adviser. Mr Paul Baker is now firmly established as our very own Benefits and Money Adviser covering Exeter, Mid Devon, East Devon and Teignbridge. He is available to conduct RBL Welfare Casework, and to provide benefit and money advice, to RBL welfare clients within these areas. Details available from the County Office, and being briefed at Annual Update Course. We have high hopes of a similar and much needed post being created in Plymouth shortly.

Poppy People Launch. At the Aquarium, Plymouth, on Thursday 11th and Friday 12th September, the aim being to publicize our need for, and recruit more Collectors (and Organisers in some areas).

Poppy Appeal Launch. Scheduled for Tuesday 21st October at Exeter Race Course. We will hold a similar Race Day as that held in 2006, except this time we will also launch the Poppy Appeal. Maximum attendance is encouraged, especially by Standard Bearers (including Women's Section) please.

OTHER MATTERS

County Festival of Remembrance. Plans are well in hand for another entertaining and moving Festival of Remembrance. This year's theme will be the 90th Anniversary of Armistice Day, the end of WW1.

Woody Bay Armistice Day Event. At the 11th hour on Tuesday 11th November, the 90th Anniversary of Armistice Day, the Lynton & Barnstaple Railway Trust will be unveiling their refurbished WW1 Battlefield locomotive at a Silence, and ceremony, to be officiated by the Bishop of Exeter, and supported by RBL at County and local Branch levels. Local and County Standard Bearers are encouraged to attend. This will be a high profile event, hopefully well attended by the public, veterans, media, and local military personnel.

PAO BRIEFINGS

Carole Arnold (Community Fundraiser) will shortly send a letter to all PAOs. However, as advanced warning please note that, breaking with tradition, in order to ring the changes, and maybe enable more to attend, we will this year conduct our PAO Briefings at 'afternoon tea time' (3 pm) as follows:

Wednesday 10 Sep 08
The Barnstaple Hotel,
Barnstaple.

Wednesday 17 Sep 08
The Aquarium, Plymouth.

Wednesday 24 Sep 08
The Devon Hotel, Exeter.

**THE ROYAL
BRITISH LEGION
DEVON COUNTY**

3 Barnfield Crescent
Exeter
EX1 1QT

Phone: 01392 272211
Fax: 01392 273444

rjennings@britishlegion.org.uk
<http://rbldevon.co.uk>

**British Veterans
Recognition Card**

Members may wish know that substantial discounts are offered via the following website:

[http://
britishveteans.org.uk/
news.html](http://britishveteans.org.uk/news.html)



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.

COUNTY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Friday 1 August 2008

Holworthy Golf Course

Team and Individual Competitions

For further information

contact the County Sports Officer Martin Heslip

07875 587017 or Golf_56@hotmail.co.uk

Plymouth Veterans Day 27—29 June 2008

Weekend of Service / Veterans activities in Plymouth

Friday & Saturday 27/28 June 0930-1730

Veterans Centre Plymouth Guildhall

Free Public entry to all Veteran Supporting Organisations

Entertainment/Stalls/Information

Friday 27 June 1100

A Service for National Veterans Day

St Andrews Church Plymouth

Saturday 28 June 2000

Veterans Day Concert St Andrews Church Plymouth

Sunday 29 June 1030 -1700

Plymouth Hoe

Veterans Day Tattoo, Parade of Standards 1630

COUNTY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The 2008 County Committee Meetings will be held in the Alphington RBL Club on:

Saturdays: 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.

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