



# Devon County Newsletter

Spring 2009

## Diary Dates:

Train Trip  
Buckfastleigh  
Tue 16 June 2009

Armed Forces Weekend  
Plymouth  
27/28 June 2009

County Rally  
Okehampton Camp  
Sun 13 September  
2009

Poppy Appeal Launch  
Exeter City FC  
Sat/Sun 24/25 Oct

Festival of  
Remembrance  
Great Hall Exeter  
Thu 5 November 2009

Candlelit Carol Concert  
St Andrews Church  
Plymouth  
Sat 19 December 2009

## Inside this issue:

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

## MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN - COUNTY WELFARE FUND

In an effort to reduce the amount of funds held by Devon Branches and to support local welfare needs, the County Committee has asked all Branches with funds in excess of £2k to donate 10% of all available funds over the £2k threshold to the County Welfare Fund. The County Committee are most grateful to the Branches that complied with the request and can report that over £57k has been donated by Branches since the scheme was introduced. However, in this Legion year only £12k has been donated which impacts on the welfare activities of the County. Indeed, we have now stopped supporting local welfare as there is insufficient funding available. The County Committee are agreed that these funds which are generated from Branches are the ideal opportunity for money to be used immediately, instead of lying dormant in Branch accounts. More importantly, it meets the aims and objectives of our Charity and it is with this in mind that I would ask all Branches to continue with their donations and ask Branches who have not yet contributed this year to do so. 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 remains one of the few outlets approved by Head Office for the disposal of welfare funds and Branches are encouraged to donate any surplus funds which can be used for immediate relief. Again, I would ask for your continued support so that we might meet our Charity's objectives.



DOUBLE DEDICATION OF AXMINSTER STANDARDS

## 2008 DEVON COUNTY POPPY APPEAL TOTAL (as at 6 Apr 09)

Devon County: £800,693.45 (753K 2007) National: £29.5m

We have much to be please (but not complacent) about.  
A Huge thanks to all responsible for this impressive total.

### Dedication of Bere Alston Standard

Bere Alton Branch will be dedicating their new Standard on Sunday 17 May 2009 and would welcome other Branch Standards to support this event. A parade led by Tavistock Town Band will march off from Bere Alston Parish Car Park at 1415 for the service at Holy Trinity Church and then return for refreshments in the Hall. Those wishing to attend are asked to contact the Branch Secretary on 01822 841285.

### Armed Forces Day Weymouth 14 June 2009

Branches are invited to send their Standards to the Armed Forces Day Parade at Weymouth for the sea front church service which starts at 1050. Form up point is Coach Park End of Weymouth Sea Front at 1030.



### Poppy Appeal Merchandising

A number of suitable endorsed Poppy Appeal items are now available from the County Office with all profits going to the Poppy Appeal:

**Fleeces:** Dark Blue with Legion/Poppy Emblem  
**Sizes:** Small, Medium, Large and Extra Large.  
 £20 each.

**Polo Shirts:** Dark Blue with Legion/Poppy Emblem  
**Sizes:** Small, Medium, Large and Extra Large.  
 £12 each.

**Poppy lapel Pins** £1 each  
**Bone China Mugs with Poppy design** £8 each.  
**Cotton Eco Friendly Shopping Bags** £3 each.  
**Golf Umbrellas** £20 each.  
**Cotton Tea Towels** £4 each.  
**Wrist Bands** £1 each.

All enquires to the Community Fund Raiser  
 Carole Arnold: 07769671590 or 01392 273111  
 carnold@britishlegion.org.uk

### The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

Charity Number 219279

#### SPONSORED ABSEIL

All monies raised will be for the benefit of Serving and ex Service personnel and their families.

**Saturday 9th May 2009**



Descend the Wall of the:  
**House of Fraser (Dingles)**  
**Royal Parade Plymouth**  
**10am—4pm**

If you want to help raise funds and take part under the supervision of the Royal Marines, then please contact:

Carole Arnold—07769671590 / 01297 624355  
 email carnold@britishlegion.org.uk

Our thanks to the House of Fraser and the Royal Marines for facilitating this event.

### PAO BRIEFINGS 2009

**Wednesday 2 Sep 09**  
**Barnstaple TBC.**

**Wednesday 16 Sep 09**  
**Crownhill Fort, Plymouth.**

**Wednesday 23 Sep 09**

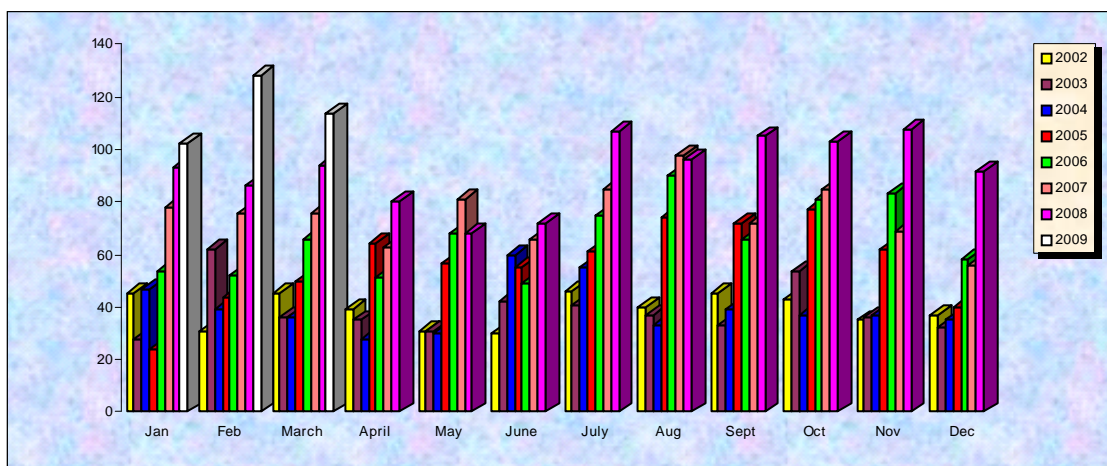
### Rorkes Drift Grave Dedication: Pte Thomas Luddington

On 24 Mar Devon RBL assisted at a Service of Dedication for the placing of a gravestone, at a previously unmarked grave of a Rorke's Drift defender, in Weston Mill Cemetery, Plymouth.

The project was inspired and initiated by Cpl Tim Needham, a bugler with the Band of HMRM Plymouth. Approximately 80 people attended, Civic and regimental representatives, family descendants, the media, and many RBL members. We are most grateful to Crownhill Branch for their support in particular.

**WELFARE**

**Welfare Workload.** At the present rate of new welfare cases we are currently scheduled for another 20% increase this year. Our record month was February, when we received 128 new cases. This ever increasing rate necessitates the call to HQ for an increase in staff resources, which in the current climate is by no means certain. Historical details on graph below:



**Caseworker Annual Updating 2009** All existing Professional and Volunteer caseworkers should have received my letter inviting them to attend any one of the following Update Courses:

- **North Devon:** Sat 25 Apr, at Braunton RBL Club.
- **West Devon:** Sat 13 Jun, at Crownhill RBL Club.
- **East Devon:** Wed 19 Aug, at the County Office, Exeter.
- **East Devon:** Sat 03 Oct, at the County Office, Exeter.

**Volunteer Welfare Caseworker Training Course: 21-22 Feb 2009** Having been over-subscribed we only actually trained 13 new caseworkers at this 2 day course, held for the first time in the new County Office. There were several short notice cancellations and 3 candidates simply failed to attend. Since then it has taken a considerable length of time to acquire CRB Clearances for these caseworkers, who are not issued their ID cards, nor permitted to commence case work, until this clearance has been received. In future we will conduct an Induction Day for all prospective new caseworkers at which CRB applications will be initiated, and candidates will have the opportunity to decide whether or not to commit to the offer of a Course vacancy. The date of this course will be promulgated in due course, but can be expected to be in late 2009.

**Professional Welfare Caseworker Training Course:** Whilst we are not now seeking any more Professional Caseworkers there will be from time to time the need to train more. A very limited number will attend a course to be held at the County Office in the near future (Apr - May), the date for which has yet to be finalised.

**Caseworker Handbook** A new version will be published by HQ in the near future. All trained caseworkers will receive a copy.

**Alabare Hostel** This 7 bed supported housing facility for homeless and vulnerable Ex Service personnel was officially opened on 03 Feb. Whilst operated by the staff of Alabare its operation is overseen by Devon RBL's Client Support Officer, Mark Rickman.

**PATH Tenancy Support Officer** The RBL funded position of Tenancy Support Officer, within Plymouth Access to Housing (PATH) has been filled by Ann Haggi whom we welcome to our 'wider' team. As with the introductions of our CSO, and our two BMAs, we look forward to the prospect of bringing this additional expertise and support to those in Plymouth whose tenancies are in danger of 'going wrong'.

**Welfare Staff.** We were sad to say farewell to Mrs Anne Nicholson as she retired in February from her position as part time County Welfare Officer, after some 8 years of superb service within the County Office, and we wish all good fortune in her move to Dorset. We welcome in her stead Mrs Jackie Bulmer, who joined us in mid March.

**THE ROYAL  
BRITISH LEGION  
DEVON COUNTY**

Alden Business Court  
7a Chudleigh Road  
Exeter  
EX28TS

Phone: 01392 272211

Fax: 01392 273444

[rjennings@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:rjennings@britishlegion.org.uk)

<http://rbldevon.co.uk>

**Holiday's Made Easy**

Local Specialist



Caravan Holidays  
For individuals who  
have limited mobility.  
For further  
information:  
[www.scoot-a-long.org.uk](http://www.scoot-a-long.org.uk)  
01752 480252

**Festival of Remembrance - The Royal Albert Hall - 7 November 2009**

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 28 August 2009.

**Cenotaph Parade and Service - Whitehall - 8 November 2009**

Members wishing to attend the parade in Whitehall should apply to the County Secretary by 28 August 2009. 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 7 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](mailto:Golf_56@hotmail.co.uk)

**Plymouth Veterans Day 27–28 June 2009**

Weekend of Service / Veterans activities in Plymouth

Friday & Saturday 26/27 June 0930-1730

Veterans Centre Plymouth Guildhall

Free Public entry to all Veteran Supporting Organisations

Entertainment/Stalls/Information

Friday 26 June 1100  
A Service for National  
Veterans Day  
St Andrews Church

Saturday 27 June 2000  
Veterans Day Concert  
St Andrews Church Plymouth

Sunday 28 June 1030 -1700

Plymouth Hoe Veterans Day Tattoo, Parade of Standards 1630  
all Satandatd Bearers, friends and families are welcome

**COUNTY COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

County Committee Meetings will be held in the County Office on:

Saturdays: 6 Jun 09, 26 Sep 09 and 28 Nov 09 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 ROYAL BRITISH  
**LEGION**



The County Directory, Photo Album and the Newsletter and details of forthcoming events are published to the Devon County Website which includes downloadable printable versions of advertisements:

<http://rbldevon.co.uk>