



Devon County Newsletter

Summer 2009

Diary Dates:

County Rally
Okehampton Camp
Sun 13 September
2009

Poppy Appeal Launch
Exeter City FC
Sat 24 Oct

Festival of
Remembrance
Great Hall Exeter
Thu 5 November 2009

Candlelit Carol Concert
St Andrews Church
Plymouth
Sat 19 December 2009

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

It is with regret that we announce the deaths of:

Mr D Carse of the Holsworthy Branch
Mr P Littlejohn of the Hartland Branch
Mr R Evans of the Brixham 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 Life Membership — Mr R Cox Branscombe Branch
Gold Badge — Mr A Tapper Crownhill Branch

SPONSORED ABSEIL A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS



Over 50 volunteers braved the weather and the heights by abseiling down the walls of the House of Fraser in Plymouth in May. The Poppy Appeal benefited from sponsorship which raised £3500 and the Legion was well represented on the ground by the Crownhill Branch. The event was supported by the Royal Marines and the Legion enjoyed a high profile and good publicity in Plymouth. The Poppy Appeal attracted 40 new volunteers and Crownhill Branch sold out of Lapel Badges. Overall, a fantastic and very productive day, thanks to our many volunteers.

2008 DEVON COUNTY POPPY APPEAL TOTAL (as at 23 June 2009)

Devon County: £811K (753K 2007) National: £29.5m
Huge thanks to all responsible for this impressive total.



Devon RBL welcome home 6 RIFLES and Standard Bearers take part in Homecoming Parade.



Ralph Cox is awarded Life Membership

BRANSCOMBE BRANCH

On Saturday February 7th, the Branscombe Branch held their annual dinner, and by coincidence this fell on the 62nd anniversary of the branch founding. The dinner was attended by 74 guests, which was a fantastic effort, bearing in mind the adverse weather conditions over that period of February. During the dinner 9 certificates were awarded:- two for services towards the Poppy Appeal; three for long service (over 25 years) to the branch and 3 for commitment to the branch. The ninth certificate was awarded to a non-member for his outstanding contribution in raising thousands of pounds for the Poppy Appeal and other charities over many years

CFR NEWS

Coffee Mornings If you are holding a coffee morning in a Club or Village Hall and you require promotional material or ongoing powerpoint presentation, please let me know and I will come along.

Candlelit Carol Concert - 19th December The Carol Concert will be held in St Andrews Church, Plymouth in memory of those not returning home for Christmas. Entry will be free, with collections. Time: 6.30 for 7 p.m. We have enlisted the support of the Saltash Ladies Choir and the Saltash Girls Choir. More details in the next newsletter.

Retirements - Poppy Appeal Organisers We are so sorry to lose, through retirement, the following Organisers:

Milton Combe Mrs. Z. Vaux
Feniton Mr. David Brain

PAO BRIEFINGS 2009

Wednesday 2 Sep 09 Barnstaple TA Centre.
Wednesday 16 Sep 09 Crownhill Fort, Plymouth.
Wednesday 23 Sep 09 County Office, Exeter.

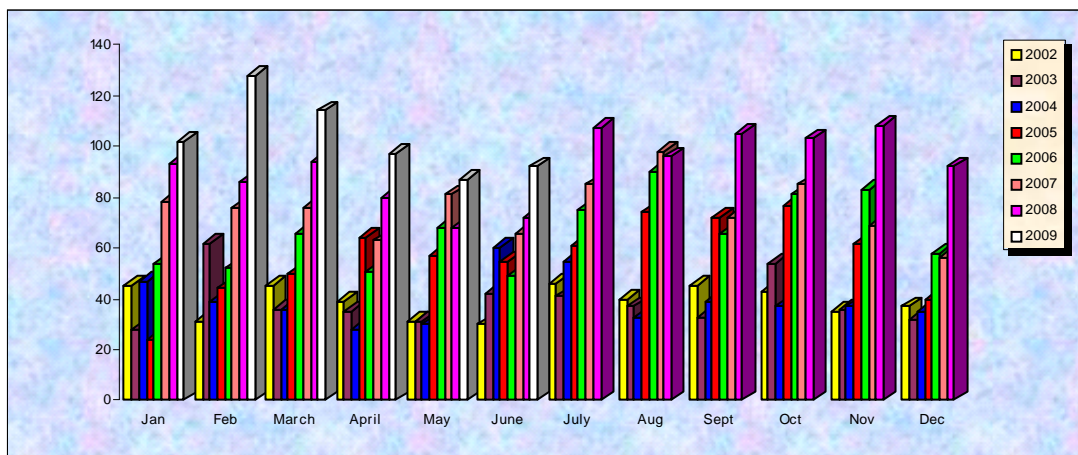


Newton Abbott Decoration Day

WELFARE

Budget: Due to 'difficult times' we are having to implement certain cost cutting measures in our welfare operation, such as greater questioning of State funding obligations, and increased use of second hand equipment. That said, all deserving welfare applicants will continue to have their needs met.

Welfare Cases: We continue to experience increased welfare assistance applications, and are on target (despite the above point) to grant approx £900k by the end of this financial year. Historical details on graph below:



Caseworkers: We currently hold 127 x Volunteers and 68 x Professional Caseworkers in Devon. The Update Course programme is as follows:

- **North Devon:** Sat 25 Apr, at Braunton RBL Club: 16 attended.
- **West Devon:** Sat 13 Jun, at Crownhill RBL Club: 41 attended.
- **East Devon:** Wed 19 Aug, at the County Office, Exeter:
- **East Devon:** Sat 03 Oct, at the County Office, Exeter:

Future Training: Apart from Plymouth and Torbay we do not need anything other than 'replacement' Caseworkers in most of Devon. All nominations should be referred to the County Manager. In accordance with revised RBL procedures all prospective caseworkers are now required to attend an Induction Course prior to being accepted as a candidate for a Training Course. Devon's programme is as follows:

Induction Courses (including CRB process):

- Wed 02 Dec, Exeter.
- Sat 05 Dec, Exeter.

Training Course: 20-21 Feb 2010, Exeter, tbc

Homeless & Vulnerable: The Alabare project (hostel) in Plymouth is full and operating as intended. We now have a contracted Tenancy Support Officer within Plymouth Access to Housing (PATH).

Welfare Assistance to the Serving: It is never easy to assist those who are serving due to their needs being very well met (largely) by the MOD. However, we are delighted that Paul Baker (BMA East) is providing a monthly money advice clinic at CTCRM Lympstone, as well as briefings to all recruit intakes.

Use of County Office: We are also delighted that the facilities of our new County Office are being used increasingly by SSAFA, Combat Stress, BMA (CAB), and now by the RBL Tribunals Officer for the SW, who holds a clinic on the first Monday of the month between 1000 - 1500 hrs.

RBL Caseworker Handbook: All caseworkers will receive a copy of this new publication imminently, if not already.

OTHER MATTERS

Sun 13 Sep 2009: County Rally, Okehampton Camp: Plans are well in hand for what promises to be another interesting and action packed day. This event is also open to the public so please encourage friends and relations to come along as well. It goes almost without saying that maximum Standard Bearer attendance is strongly encouraged, please.

Thu 05 Nov 2009: County Festival of Remembrance: The theme this year is our Armed Forces' operations in Afghanistan. The Band of HM Royal Marines, together with the Neath Male Voice Choir, a young vocalist and a pianist, will guarantee a wonderful evening of entertainment.

Sat 19 Dec 2009: Candlelit Carol Concert, St Andrew's Church, Plymouth.

**THE ROYAL
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**COMMANDO
CHALLENGE**

10/11 OCT 09

Volunteers are urgently needed to act as stewards for the Commando Challenge this year. The Poppy appeal will receive 20% of sponsorship which could be as much as £30K. However, we need to provide 20 volunteers each day to help run the event. If you can help with either day please contact the CFR Carole Arnold on 01392 273111

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 **22 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 **22 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.

Payment of Affiliation Fees

All Branches now have their affiliation fees collected by Direct Debit in February/March each year through Head Office. Therefore, it is unnecessary for Branches to forward any monies or cheques in respect of new applications to the County Office throughout the year. A Statement showing all cards issued throughout the year will be sent in February each year to Branches with the end of year notification of the amount to be debited from accounts.

Media Course

The PRO will run a Media Course to help Branches better publish their activities. The Course will run on a Saturday morning (10am—Noon) at the County Office. For further details and register your interest please contact the PRO:
Peter Williams 01 837 8407578

**Devon County
Festival of Remembrance
The Great Hall Exeter University**

**Thursday 5 November 2009
at 7.30 pm (doors open 6.30pm)**

**Tickets at £7 each are available
from the County Office:**

**01392 272211
rjennings@britishlegion.org.uk**

COUNTY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

County Committee Meetings will be held in the County Office on:
Saturdays: 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 County Directory, Photo Album and the Newsletter plus details of forthcoming events which are published to the Devon County Website including downloadable printable versions of advertisements:

<http://rbldevon.co.uk>

THE ROYAL BRITISH
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