



# Devon County Newsletter

Summer 2010

## Diary Dates:

March for Honour  
Launch Plymouth Hoe  
4 Nov 10 10am

Devon Festival of  
Remembrance  
Princess Theatre  
Torquay  
11 Nov 10

Carol Concert  
St Andrew's Plymouth  
18 Dec 10

Devon County AGM  
Honiton RBL Club  
Sat 8 Jan 11

90th Anniversary  
Mystery Tour  
25/27 Mar 11



Exeter Armed Forces Day

## MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN

We are well into the summer and, so far, have had some decent weather. It has been busy particularly with the Armed Forces day events around the County. In addition there have been a number of fundraising events, such as the march from Ilfracombe and the Torbay Memorial march. I know that our standard bearers and the Women's section standard bearers have supported these many events with their usual enthusiasm and professionalism, in many cases having to get up before the sparrow, to get to the various venues. Well done to you all and thank you for your continued support.

I attended the National Conference in May, as your County representative, and have produced a separate report on that. It was very disappointing to see the defeat of a motion of urgency to increase the annual subscription fee to a level where it would match current expenditure. The Legion is overspending in the General Fund and the money will run out soon. I expect to see a Devon sponsored motion at next year's National conference which will address this issue. I encourage all branches to decide now that they will send delegates to that Conference so that we can take steps to save the membership of the Legion! Frankly, if we don't, on the basis of this year's delegates' attitude to the problem, the Legion membership will be gone in a couple of years or less. It really is that critical. The dates for the Conference are 21/22 May 2011 and the venue is at Telford in Shropshire.

Finally I remind you that next year is our 90<sup>th</sup> birthday year! Your County Committee has agreed a target of 90 events in the County and to raise £90,000 from those events for the benefit of the Legion and the Poppy Appeal. We are working on some fund raising proposals for you, but, in the meantime, start planning your 90<sup>th</sup> birthday parties for next year.

Enjoy the rest of the summer.

Ralph Howard-Williams

## Inside this issue:

General	2
CM Notes	3
Secretary's Column	4



## 2011 - 90th Anniversary of the Royal British Legion

Branches are asked to inform the County Secretary of any event associated with the 90th Anniversary so that a Diary of Events can be maintained on behalf of the County.



### Poppy Appeal 2010

Devon has again excelled themselves with another amazing increase in our Poppy Appeal collections. Our thanks to all our volunteers who have helped with the Appeal.



Devon County £918,810.17 National Total £32.7m

**COUNTY GOLF TOURNAMENT**  
Friday 6 August 2010 Holsworthy Golf Course  
Team and Individual Competitions For further information  
contact the County Sports Officer Martin Heslip



### TRAFALGAR DAY SERVICE AT EXETER CATHEDRAL

The annual Trafalgar Day Service will be held at 11.30 am on 24 October 2010 in Exeter Cathedral. The service will be conducted by the Bishop to the Forces The Right Reverend Stephen Venner and supported by the Band of the RM CTC Lymstone. Everybody is welcome to attend.

**WELFARE**

**Welfare Cases:** After a relatively quiet start to the year, Jun and Jul have turned out to be extremely busy; in fact, with 125 new cases in June, this was a record.

**Caseworker Training:** Any nominations for possible future caseworkers should be directed to the County Manager. Depending upon the need for caseworkers in the area concerned, and suitability, Induction Course vacancies will then be offered for either Wed 1 Dec or Sat 4 Dec, followed by the actual Training Course on the w/e of 19-20 Feb 2011.

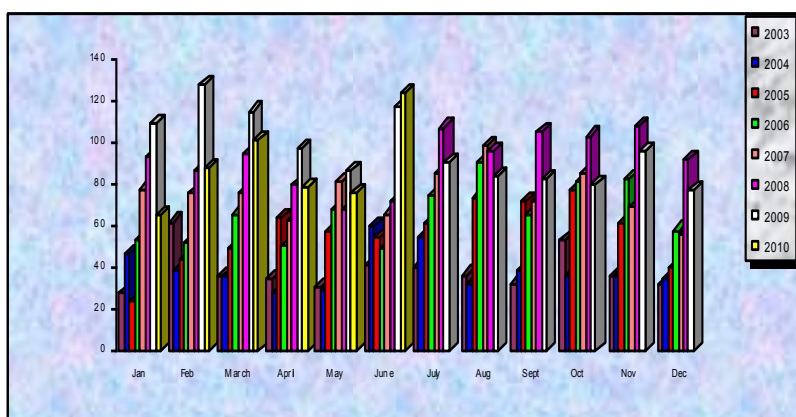
**Caseworker Updating:** Happened, and scheduled as follows:

Sat 24 Apr: Braunton: x 18

Sat 12 Jun: Crownhill x 37, incl 1 x lady from RBL Tenerife ! Wed 18 Aug: Exeter Sat 2 Oct: Exeter

**Mental Health:** We hosted a Mental Health Study Day at the County Office on 25 May. Well attended by members of the NHS, the Armed Services, and the Armed Services charities, this involved a presentation on the Warrior Programme (an alternative MH therapy) followed by a presentation at CTCRM Lymestone on Post Operational Stress Management, as conducted by the RM.

**Prosthetics:** We remain closely in touch with some of Devon's recent (Afghanistan) amputees, and are maintaining a close interest in their post Service provision of replacement prosthetics, and servicing.

**OTHER MATTERS**

**Lydia Cross meets HM:** We were delighted to have been able to fulfil a promise on 15 May when we finally arranged for 9 yr old double leg amputee Miss Lydia Cross from Braunton, to meet HM The Queen at the Windsor Military Tattoo. Lydia had previously been scheduled to present a poise to HM at the opening of Haig House early last year, but sadly she was unable to make this appointment due to her extended convalescence following corrective surgery.



**Devon County Show, 20-22 May:** Our display at this year's County Show was notable for two Gazebos (County and Crownhill), instead of one, and the presence of 3 x uniformed Royal Marines who supported us throughout. As a result of both enhancements we were subject to an increased (and younger!) degree of public interest. Hopefully we can continue to operate on these lines in the future.

**Project 65, The Forces March, 27-31 May, Ilfracombe:** With the magnificent help of some 25 Standard Bearers, and both Hartland and Barnstaple Branches, we were able to provide extensive support to the launch and early stages of this fundraising event.

**Legion on Tour, 3-4 Jun, Exeter:** With the assistance of RBL's mobile display unit, we held a very successful Reception at the County Office, followed by 2 days of 'street marketing' in Exeter's Bedford Square. Not hugely successful at attracting the 'Service Family' to engage with us, to allow us to spread the 'Poppy Support' message, we learned a lot of lessons, and will be far better placed to conduct a much more valuable exercise, hopefully in Plymouth City Centre, in 2011.

**Bill Millin to Normandy:** We thank Huw Matthews and Dawlish Branch, for very kindly and efficiently reacting to a very short notice request (from France) to achieve the visit of Piper Bill Millin to and from this year's D Day anniversary at Normandy.

**Armed Forces Day:** As ever we thank all of those Branches who participated in, and in some cases, masterminded, their local Armed Forces Days. Paignton Branch, ably supported by Torquay and Ivybridge Branches, laid a magnificent fundraising march around Torbay's war memorials. It goes without saying that our Standard Bearers were very much in evidence, County wide, and notably at Exeter's event on Sun 27 Jun.

## County Secretary's Column

### THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION DEVON COUNTY

Aldens Business Court  
7A Chudleigh Road  
Exeter  
EX2 8TS

Phone: 01392 272211

Fax: 02032072316

devon@britishlegion.org

#### FESTIVAL DVD

Remembrance  
Festival DVDs  
are now available  
at £7 each  
From David Watkins  
01837 840722



#### BRANCH EMAIL CONTACTS

The County maintains a list of Branch email contacts which allows information to be passed quickly and cost effectively. If your Branch wishes to be included in the contact listing please email the County Secretary to update the details. Ideally, we would wish to keep a separate list for Chairman and Secretaries: [rjennings@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:rjennings@britishlegion.org.uk)

THE ROYAL  
BRITISH  
LEGION



#### Festival of Remembrance - The Royal Albert Hall - 13 November 2010

Individuals wishing to attend the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall should apply through their Branch Secretary or to the County Office with a covering payment of £10 per ticket (cheques made payable to Devon County RBL) no later than 27 August 2010.

#### Cenotaph Parade and Service - Whitehall - 14 November 2010

Members wishing to attend the parade in Whitehall should apply to the County Secretary by 27 August 2010. 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.



#### Devon County 90th Anniversary Mystery Weekend 25 - 27 March 2011



If you yearn for a sense of adventure and would like a little bit of mystery, then come along for a mystery weekend as part of the County's 90th Anniversary celebrations. Details from the County Secretary.

#### DEVON COUNTY FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE

THURSDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2010 7pm  
PRINCESS THEATRE TORQUAY

Tickets £8

Priority Booking for Branches and Members  
1 July 2010 until 15 August 2010  
(Public Booking 16 August 2010 Onwards)

How to Book:

Call 0844 847 2315 (Local Call)

Option 1 - Debit/Credit Cards (Booking Fees)

Option 2 - Cheque Reservations

Groups 10+ Sales - 01803 380842

[www.princessstheatre.org.uk](http://www.princessstheatre.org.uk) (Booking Fees)

The Royal British Legion, Devon County

The Royal British Legion  
presents

#### A Special Carol Concert In Remembrance of the Recent Fallen

Will be held at:

St Andrew's Church  
Plymouth

Saturday 18 December 2010  
at 7.00 pm

Collection on behalf of the  
Poppy Appeal

Further information from the County Office:  
01392 272211  
[devon@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:devon@britishlegion.org.uk)

#### County Committee Meetings

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

Saturdays: 25 Sep 10 and 27 Nov 10 at 1030 hours.

To allow transparency of County business and to provide Branches an open forum, the County Meetings are open to all members and Branches are encouraged to send a representative.

#### DEVON COUNTY WEB SITE

<http://rbldevon.co.uk>