

*Dear West Cornwall Group Members*

7<sup>th</sup> January 2008

### **Cornwall County Central (Kernow) Branch Update**

I am very pleased to report that our Branch is developing very well and it now has over 500 members (this again beats our annual 10% target with an increase of over 28% in the past year).

This Branch is primarily used for newly recruited members, mainly from regular and reserve military personnel but is also an ideal opportunity to provide a facility for those people who just wish to support the Royal British Legion. Muriel Hocking continues to lead her team on regular visits to the military and reserve establishments in Cornwall and together with a very positive recruiting and retention campaign, has developed a firm membership footprint that extends outside of the county. It is no wonder that we are the fastest expanding Branch within the County – we saw an increase of around 100 members this year alone. The Branch is now well established; it conforms to the same formal requirements of any other Branch and our delegates stand up to be counted at both County and National Conferences - but will need to keep this momentum rolling.

We held a very successful Annual General Meeting at the Skinner's Brewery in Truro on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November. A tour, a few samples and tasty Cornish pasties followed this. I was pleased to welcome all members present (which included the County President and County Chairman) and our guests; Wing Cdr Hilary Trant (County Vice President), Mrs Rita Barratt, Mrs Geraldine Gardner and Mr Phil White (Truro Branch Chairman). The 2008 Annual General Meeting is currently planned for Thursday November 6<sup>th</sup> 2008.

Effective communication remains one of our prime objectives and our dedicated area on the county website remains our main means of passing information. Although our progress over the past two years has been rapid, there are still many areas for development and top of the list must be to gather a data bank of email addresses to enable quick and easy communication – this would allow us to take the next big step forward. We will be also be ensuring that Training and Welfare facilities are suitably advertised and made available to all members.

The County Chairman is currently questioning arrangements for multi-branch membership in order to ease this challenge. The use of Internet has proved to be a major factor in keeping administration costs down (hence our low membership fee of £11:50, which includes just 50p towards all administration costs). Please take the opportunity to read the Branch web pages on the county website [www.rblcornwall.co.uk](http://www.rblcornwall.co.uk)

The Branch does not expect to hold a great deal of money, but we will need to ensure that sufficient funding is available to send delegates to National Conference. We will send two delegates to Southport this May – so more representation for Cornwall. The Central Branch uses the HQ address in Lemon Street and Keith Naylor is normally available there on a daily basis.

I am very appreciative of all the help and support given to us by the County Branches in our formative years and we wish all a very happy and successful 2008.

*Bob D*

Bob Davidson  
Chairman  
Cornwall County Central Branch  
(Kernow Branch)