

Cornwall Legion News

March 2006

TO ALL OUR READERS

Having held our Annual Conference in January we begin to implement some of the ideas put forward in the hope that with the new systems in place we can revitalise our efforts to recruit new members to carry on with the work to which we remain committed. The figures for our Welfare Work alone makes us proud of the organisation we are pledged to serve and these figures continue to increase as more and more people become aware of our presence and our ability to meet the needs of those who seek our help. We therefore welcome more hands on board and those Branches that have Clubs extend an additional welcome to prospective members who can enjoy the work of the Legion in a congenial atmosphere of comradeship. We seek to be a part of our local community and to be involved in that community life and in turn introduce our activities to all who show an interest to the work that we do,

COUNTY CONFERENCE 2005

Conference met in County Hall on Sunday January 8th, There were 17 Standards taking part with the county Standard being received by our President. Thirty three branches sent delegates. In the absence of the County Chaplain the President led the Lords Prayer with one for a blessing on the Conference.

A warm and enthusiastic Civic Welcome was given by Cllr Mrs Doris Ansari who recalled the liaison between City and Legion in the 60th Anniversary Cathedral Service last September.

The President then read the Loyal Greeting to H.M. the Queen and the reply that he received, thanked Cllr. Mrs Ansari for her kind remarks and welcomed the Lord Lieutenant, Lady Mary Holborow. He also welcomed the Women's Section representatives and the Guest Speaker, Commodore David Pond, Officer Commanding HMS Raleigh.

In his presentation with a power point backing Commodore Pond presented a resume on the training of the modern sailor and indicated some of the changes that had been effected. He stated that this training had to be inspirational to new recruits, provide physically and mentally challenging exercises and emphasising respect for the individual. There had been more time allocated to maritime training than previously, and that dress varied according to the task in hand. He was proud of what could be achieved during the 6 week period of initial training and named the "core values" as Courage, Self-development, Loyalty, Leadership and Teamwork. This interesting address was very warmly received.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

The presentation of the Lord Lieutenant's awards to Cadet units for their work with the Legion were presented by Lady Mary. The sponsoring Branch for 2005 was Mousehole. The winners were :-

1. Penzance SCC 2. Liskeard ACF 3. (equal) Redruth ACF and Torpoint ACF with Commendations to Hayle ACF, Camborne/Redruth SCC and St Blazey ATC.

COUNTY CHAIRMAN

Mr Roy Barratt firstly gave a welcome to all present and then paid a glowing tribute to Peter Kendall who died in December, speaking of his commitment to the Legion and particularly of his leadership as County Chairman. He also stated that Sir James Jungius, our past County President, would be leaving Cornwall for Dorset but will continue his links with the Legion there and recorded his thanks for his services to Cornwall County RBL. Looking ahead he referred to the County Plan 2005 - 2008 and felt that branches should be encouraged to produce similar plans at local level as this would help form a case line for Legion activities, particularly as regards recruitment.

ELECTIONS

Mr Barratt was re-elected as County Chairman with Mr C Rawson as Vice-Chairman

STANDARD BEARERS

The awards for the Standard Bearers Competition were presented. The winners were listed in the November edition.

The Burnard Hitchens Trophy was won by Mr A Gardner of Saltash Branch

The John Ross Cup was won by Liskeard Branch and the Barbara Thomas Shield by the Club.

BRANCH MOTIONS CARRIED BY CONFERENCE

Constantine Branch : “Conference requests the Board of Trustees to consider, within the constraints of local council bye-laws, an extension of the Poppy Appeal bucket collection (which currently takes place during Conference and inside the Conference Hall) to encompass the route to the parade to the local War Memorial”

Mousehole Branch : “This Conference urges the National Conference Committee to exercise greater scrutiny over its study of motions submitted to Conference, to avoid issues that are overtly political; and not primarily related to the ex-service community.

Liskeard Branch : “This Conference urges the Board of Trustees to continue the excellent work done by the Gulf War Group. Furthermore, to keep the format in place and use the experience gained to assist veterans of present and future conflicts.”

These resolutions will now go forward for consideration at National Conference.

The Conference appeared to have been much enjoyed by those who attended and concluded with the return of the County Standard and the National Anthem. Following this there remained time to renew friendships. Truro RBL extended an invitation to tea their Club.

OBITUARY

PETER KENDALL M.B.E.

Peter died on December 15th in West Cornwall Hospital, Penzance. His funeral took place at St Mary's Church, Penzance on December 22 2005, with County Officers and County Standard Bearers from Branches and Women's Section, with other Standards from Branches and Women's Sections from all over Cornwall. The funeral service was followed by cremation at Penmount. Peter was a very active member of the Royal British Legion and held the office of County Chairman and other offices at county level. At the time of his death he was a County Vice-President. At his Branch at Penzance he was both Branch President and Secretary . He worked on the Welfare Committee for some time. Peter was also President of the RBL Club and did a great deal of good work in this capacity.

He will be greatly missed at National, County and Branch level and our condolences are extended to his widow and family.

L M George, Branch

Chairman

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Saturday, April 22nd	County Committee Meeting at Liskeard RBL
Sunday June 11th	COUNTY RALLY AT NEWQUAY
Wednesday July 12th	AIR DAY AT R.N.A.S. CULDROSE
Sunday, July 16th	County Committee Meeting at Truro RBL
Saturday, October 14th	County Committee Meeting at Newquay RBL

FROM THE BRANCHES

PELYNT AND LANREATH

The Branch held a Coffee Morning at the Jubilee Inn on Friday December 16th which was well attended and a Christmas raffle was held to which the proprietor of the Jubilee Inn donated a bottle of wine. 35 members stayed for lunch and the event was enjoyed by all. The next Coffee Mornings will be on the first Wednesday of March and April from 10am to 11.30am and lunch will be available for those who wish to have it. Please come and join us - we are a happy bunch !

Mary Talbot, Branch Secretary

NEWQUAY OBITUARY

It is with regret that we record the passing of Mr F T H (Fred) Bennett who died in December aged 94. He was actively involved in Branch and Club affairs up to the past two years and served two terms as Branch President covering around thirty years. There was a large Legion presence at his cremation which was conducted by Branch Chaplain Rev C M Phillips and the Standard with Standard Bearer Mr M Kitts was in attendance. A regular figure at the Club he will be sadly missed and our condolences are extended to his daughters and their families.

At their January Branch meeting members considered forty eight applications for membership and arranged an induction ceremony to welcome them on Saturday February 4th. It is hoped that this will be a good omen for 2006.

DONATIONS

County is pleased to acknowledge £200 from Wateraid and £100 from Tideford and St Germans Branch for the Poppy Appeal, £122 from Skinners Brewery for the Poppy Appeal, St Just £600 to the Welfare Fund, Helston Branch £1000 to the General Fund and Invensy's £75 (through Bodmin Branch.)

NEW COUNTY VICE-PRESIDENTS

At the County Committee Meeting held at Redruth RBL on Saturday, January 14th two new County Vice-Presidents were appointed. These are Mr F J Pascoe of Helston and Mr R G Davidson AFC of Truro. These appointments were made in recognition of valued service to the Legion in Cornwall and our congratulations are extended to both of them.

COPY DATE May I please have your copy for the May edition by 14 April.

Ed.

RECRUITMENT

GOOD NEWS ON THE RECRUITING AND RETENTION FRONT

We are continuing to make a slow but sure increase each month. The present membership stands at 10,080 - well done everyone ! No doubt there will be a dip in February when cards of lapsed members have been returned but if we can do it once then we can do it again this year - keep up the good work! I have calculated league positions for last year and congratulations go to Central Branch for a net gain of 54 followed by Illogan 37, Pelynt and Lanreath 35 and Tideford and St Germans 22, For those branches with over 300 members Liskeard took first place with a gain of 47 just ahead of Fowey 42, Mousehole 34 and St Austell 29. Altogether 23 Branches increased their membership. Let's see if we can increase that number this year. Thank you ALL for your efforts.

Membership Application Forms

You will know that the new Forms MS4/06 are now in print. These are available from "Poppy Appeal" and you can place an order over the telephone 01622 795815 or e-mail washone@britishlegion.org.uk The old forms are now redundant and you should destroy any stocks you have. Use only the new ones from now on.

TON UP

Tideford and St Germans Branch have signed their 100th member who just happens to be the Chairman's wife. In the photo Membership Secretary Sue March helps Janine Holmes to complete the application form while husband Jon, who is Commanding Officer of HMS Bangor looks on. Spouses and partners of members are a great untapped source for recruiting - try signing them on at your Branch.

NEW COUNTY CENTRAL BRANCH

Originally created as a holding Branch to keep a record of serving personnel recruited through the initiative of the County Recruiting team, this Branch has blossomed to one with a membership of 260. Their names will be held until they leave the service and become members of the Branch in the places where they set up homes. To this number there are those who have expressed interest in our work and who just want to support us. The officers of this Branch are provided by the County Management Board, chaired by Bob Davidson who has done so much to bring the Branch into being and will continue to provide the vehicle for our county recruitment work. It is intended to produce a Newsletter with the object of keeping the members in touch with Legion activities.

POPPY APPEAL FORUM - ADVANCE NOTICE

The Head of the Poppy Appeal has agreed to come to Truro RBL Club to make a presentation on Thursday, July 6th in the evening. Please note this date in your diaries if you are interested. The CFO will be giving more details later. This should be of particular interest to Branch PAOs.

POPPY APPEAL 2005

Latest figures for Cornwall total £279,075.19 which compares with last year's total of £281,797.61. There is a further £10,000 expected and it is hoped that the figure may reach £300,000.

COUNTY RALLY 2006

This year's event will take place at Newquay on Sunday June 11th on the Killacourt (near the town centre) and plans for the day are already in process. There will be musical items and some demonstrations in the programme and some displays of Legion activities as part of Legion in the Community. Members are asked to note the date and Branches are asked to make their plans as Newquay needs to know the number of tea tickets each Branch will require (the cost will be in the £3 region) so that catering arrangements can be made. Details will be sent out from County shortly. Newquay is planning to arrange entertainment in the evening and it would help if numbers planning to attend could be notified.

THE DESTROYER MEMORIAL 1939-1945 UNVEILING AND DEDICATION CEREMONY

The Royal Navy's last World War II operational destroyer, HMS Cavalier is now preserved at the Historic Dockyard at Chatham. under restoration since 1999, she is a memorial to the men of the Royal Navy who lost their lives in such ships during that conflict.

On the afternoon of 16th May 2006, a specially commissioned monument will be unveiled alongside HMS Cavalier to commemorate the 143 Royal Naval destroyers sunk during World War II and those who lost their lives as a result. This unique memorial, created by the eminent British sculptor Kenneth Potts, will mark the very special contribution made by these ships and the men who served in them.

The trustees of HMS Cavalier (Chatham) Trust, who commissioned the memorial, and the trustees of the Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust, invite all those who wish to attend this ceremony to apply for tickets. There will be no charge for attendance, but depending on the response, numbers may be limited. Priority will be given to those who served in World War II in destroyers, particularly anyone who survived their ship being sunk, and family members of those who lost their lives. Some

seating will be available. Applications, to be received by 31st March should be sent to :-
Destroyer Memorial Unveiling and dedication c/o Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust, The Old Surgery, The Historic Dockyard, Chatham, Kent ME4 4TZ giving details of :-

* Any particular link with World War II destroyers in which the applicant (or family member) served.

* Any relationship to someone lost in destroyers during World War II/

* The number of places required and if any of these are wheelchair users.

* Any other mobility issues * Contact details including a daytime telephone number.

Alternatively, a registration form is available on www.the.dockyard.co.uk Those who register either by post or through the website will receive tickets and other information by the end of April. At this stage, it is intended that only Destroyer Association Standards will be paraded at the ceremony.

NEWS FROM PADSTOW

The Branch records a Poppy Appeal total of £10,033.30 and are delighted with the result and can give themselves a pat on the back ! At their Christmas Social Evening Cyril Voisey received a County Certificate for his welfare work within the County for his work as a caseworker for both the RBL and SSAFA, covering Camelford and Wadebridge and the outlying villages as well as Padstow. Keith and Joyce Biddle, a husband and wife team who are the Poppy Appeal Organisers for the Branch received Branch Certificates from President Les Semmens for their work. Chris Greaves, Secretary

DEVON COUNTY LEGION GOLF DAY

Holsworthy Golf Club Friday 25th August 2006

For more details contact Martin Heslip, "Botham's View", 8 Pearson Close, Holsworthy, N Devon EX22 6GZ

Tel: 07791 074170

Muriel Hocking

TESTIMONY FILMS

Testimony Films is making a six-part series for ITV1 West about a lost world of childhood. The series is based on personal experiences of older people talking about their West Country childhoods in the first half of the twentieth century. We are particularly looking for people who can even remember being a child during the First World War, maybe even losing a parent or brother at this time. This person would need to be 95 or older to remember this time.

Testimony Films are also making another series for UK TV History about love, marriage and all kinds of relationships during the 2nd World War, and this programme will cover people all over the UK. Was marriage rushed and did it end in sadness? Did they have romances abroad? Do they have tales of heartache? Romance? What was it like to be far away from wives and girlfriends, husbands and boyfriends? They would love to hear from anyone who has wonderful memories to share.

If you are interested please contact Lisa Lipman at Testimony Films on 0117 925 8589
Brook Blackford