

# Cornwall Legion News

## May 2007

### TO ALL OUR READERS

#### COMMEMORATIONS IN CORNWALL

To mark the 25th Anniversary of the Falklands Conflict, the 40th anniversary of the withdrawal from Aden and the 54th Anniversary of the Korean Campaign many events will be taking place both locally, centrally and nationally around this time. In the last edition we announced the commemoration at Boconnoc and this is further amplified in this edition.

In addition to this event our Branches will be asked to partake in local observances and, however much this stretches our resources, we must endeavour to show our presence. We rightly remind the public of its duty to honour those who have bravely served us in past conflicts and simply have to pull out all the stops to observe those conflicts we reflect on in this very special year.

#### THE KOHIMA EPITAPH

It is generally known that these words come from an inscription on a memorial in the Kohima Cemetery in India to the Commonwealth Forces who served in Burma in World War II. What is not so well known is that it was written by John Maxwell Edmonds and comes from an even older war poem written around the sixth century BC by the Greek poet Simonides to mark the victory by King Leonidas who with 300 soldiers defeated the Persians at the Battle of Thermopylae. The full text is:

**“When you go home, tell them of us, and say for your tomorrow we gave our today. Went the day well ? We died and never knew. But well or ill, freedom, we died for you”**

#### DONATIONS

Pelynt and Lanreath Branch has donated £700 and Tywardreath Branch £300 to the Welfare Fund. Truro has donated £600 to the General Fund and sponsored the Lord Lieutenant's Cadet Competition with a further £400. Skinners Brewery has donated £172 for the Poppy Appeal. Our grateful thanks go out to them all.

#### DIARY DATES

Saturday May 19th Caseworkers Updated Course at Tideford.

Sunday, May 20th Fundraising Poppy Walk from Wadebridge to Padstow.

May 26th to 28th National Conference at Bournemouth.

Saturday June 2nd Caseworkers Updated Course at Redruth. [Applications to C.F.O for both courses.](#)

#### Sunday June 3rd County Festival of Commemoration at Boconnoc.

Branches are asked to publish this information to all members and to local communities with notices in local display facilities.

June 7th - 9th Royal Cornwall Show at Wadebridge. Visit the Legion Stand there.

Monday July 16th Stithians Show

Saturday, July 21st Perranporth Celebration Veterans Parade 11.30am at Perranporth Fire Station. (see page 4)

Wednesday August 1st Air Day at RNAS Culdrose

Saturday, September 15th Branch Treasurer's Course at Truro

### **COPY FOR NEXT EDITION**

May I please have your copy for the July edition by Friday June 15th at the latest to ensure that your information is included. Ed

### **CORNWALL FESTIVAL OF COMMEMORATION**

Plans are now moving rapidly to make the event at Boconnoc a day to remember. The date is Sunday, June 3rd and will commence at 1200 and continue on to 1700 approximately. Our Guest of Honour will be HRH the Duke of Kent, and a senior officer of each of the services. The programme will include the elements of the County Rally and in addition there will be a Display of Military Vehicles. Refreshments and Bar facilities will be available through the event.

Boconnoc will open to the public at 1000 .

1220 - 1330 Performances by the Caledonian Pipe Band and the St Austell Band

1330 Parade of Standards and parade participants assemble at the rear of Boconnoc House and march to the front with Music by HMS Seahawk Volunteer Band

1400 Fly Past of military aircraft.

1405 Service at conducted by the County Chaplain. Following this the Lord Lieutenant will present awards to Cadet Units and other RBL County Awards. The Guest of Honour will give an address.

1440 County Memorial Service

1500 Parachute Drop by the Red Devils Parachute Display Team.

1600 Demonstration by Penzance Sea Cadet Corps

1630 Ceremonial Sunset outside Boconnoc House with HMS Seahawk Volunteer Band with US Navy Colour Party

1700 Performances by St Austell Band and the Caledonian Pipe Band followed by Penzance Sea Cadets Demonstration.

There may well be changes made before the date. Watch for details ! Truro High School Band will also be taking part.

### **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORMS**

This message has been received from Tony West of the Membership Division at Pall Mall for the assistance of Branch Membership Secretaries. It has come to us via Wiltshire County.

The current version of the Membership Form is MS4/06a. If Branches have run out of them you can get a new supply from Poppy Appeal on 01622 795815. If we receive Membership applications on any other type of form we have to return them to the Branch Secretary because the Data Input Centre will not accept them. Having to return them to Branch Secretaries is frustrating for all of us and a waste of all our time. So please use the correct form the first time. We have had a number of applications on the thin blue form MS4/01a; if you are holding any of these forms please throw them away because they are out of date.

The main reasons for amendments to documents such as the MS4 are 1) a change to the affiliation fee and 2) to comply with the Data Protection Act. Because of recent changes in the Data Protection Act, legally the only acceptable version of the MS4 is the latest version - MS4/06a. It is apparent from the Wiltshire item that branches are either not aware of the changes or are ignoring the information they receive. Changes are usually reported in Legion *letter* but to emphasise this particular point I would be grateful if all Counties and Districts would put a similar notice in their own circulars and newsletters where produced. No County should accept an out of date form from a Branch. Many thanks

### **CALLING ALL GOLFERS**

Attention all you golfers ..... some dates for your diaries.

Wednesday, June 20th. Charity Golf Texas Scramble in aid of the Poppy Appeal at Truro Golf Club. Details are available from Elizabeth Saunders at the Lemon Street office On 01872 - 260577.

Friday, July 27th. Devon Royal British Legion Golf Day at Holsworthy Golf Club.

Details from Martin Heslip on 07857 - 587017.

Sunday, September 9th. Cornwall County Royal British Legion Annual Competition at Newquay Golf Club.

Details from Mick Kelly on 0163 - 872451.

## **RECRUITMENT**

Thank you all those who returned your Recruiting Proformas. I received 30 altogether which yielded some very useful information. Thank you also for your efforts in retention. Last year we lost 1,134 members over the December to March period, this year we have reduced the number of lapsed members to 805 which is a great improvement. It means that with a present membership of 9,242 we are 295 up on this time last year. The 10,000 figure is in our sights again !

There is a new March 2007 publications catalogue out now. Please ask for one and order your poster and leaflet requirements for the summer from Poppy Appeal 01622 - 795815 or e-mail [washone@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:washone@britishlegion.org.uk)

Have a successful recruiting season. If you think I can help please call 01752-851406.

Muriel Hocking PCRO.

## **FROM PADSTOW**

The Branch is busy with an active programme for the forthcoming months. It will commence with a River Camel trip on the "Jubilee Queen" on May 19th up river leaving at 7.30pm to Wadebridge with entertainment by the Padstow Merrymakers. Tickets are £7.50 each (obtainable from Branch secretary Chris Greaves). The June event will be a Social Evening with the McMelody Singers on Thursday June 14th at Padstow Social Club commencing at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £5 and includes a light Buffet Supper. The Branch hopes that there will be a good turnout.

The Branch has a good relationship with Padstow Sea Cadet Corps and is presenting a Coffee Morning on Thursday June 14th in Padstow Institute at 9.30 am with proceeds to the Cadet Unit. They will welcome any support they can muster !

## **OPEN EVENING AT NEWQUAY**

On Wednesday March 28th the Newquay RBL held an Open Evening designed to show local organisations what we represent and what we do. County Vice-Chairman Clive Rawson gave a power point presentation and led a lively discussion on a variety of matters concerning the Legion and its role in the community. Although the take up of invitations fell short of the number anticipated, those present enjoyed the evening which was rounded off with refreshments served by the Women's Section. At this event a Gold Badge was presented to Mrs Terry Saunders by Branch President Ernie Clancy in recognition of forty years of active service to the Legion, especially recognising her sterling work as Poppy Appeal Organiser.

## **ST MERRYN – OBITUARY**

The Branch records with deep regret the death of Major Roger Howard on March 25th. Roger saw service as a Royal Engineer with both the Indian Army and the British Army before leaving to take up a financial career in the local area. As well as a keen golfer and stock market guru, he was heavily involved in Branch activities and joined the St Merryn Branch in 1983. A year later he was appointed Vice-Chairman and in 1991 became Honorary treasurer. In 1997 he became Branch Chairman and served in this capacity until the AGM in November 2005. His funeral at St Merryn Parish Church was well attended and genuinely reflected the warmth and affection in which he was held by family, friends and his RBL colleagues in the community. The County was represented by the County

Standard Bearer. Our sincere condolences are extended to his widow and family.  
Jim Hale, Branch and Membership Secretary.

## **RECRUITMENT AND INFORMATION CAMPAIGN**

At the Easter Information and Recruitment Campaign was held on Lemon Quay, Truro on April 7th and 9th when our County Marquee was in use and which attracted considerable attention with 14 new members joining and information given to many others. The display was staffed by County Officers and supported by Truro Branch members and favoured by some good weather. There was considerable interest shown in the activities of our organisation and it was generally felt that the exercise was worth the effort. It did show up that, while there was interest, "Legion in the Community" is not an easy thing to promote and that some continuing commitment is needed. There was a display of information about many facets of our work, together with a special edition of the "Legion News" containing information about the Legion in Cornwall. Truro ATC Unit proved to be very helpful to us and they enjoyed the experience of working with us. The West Cornwall Concert Band played on Easter Monday and this helped draw the crowds in.

## **CALLING ALL BIKERS !**

A group of 15 motor cyclists from the Legion "Riders Branch" attended the above event. This Branch was formed nationally in 2004 and membership is open to any member, regardless of abode. It attracted a great deal of interest. The Branch is one of the fastest growing branches in the Legion and was formed of serving and ex-service members. It is open to both men and women and members can remain in their own branch with the dual membership of the National Riders Branch, to give it its correct title. Fifteen new members were recruited to this Branch over the Easter display days

The Branch has a website [www.rblr.co.uk](http://www.rblr.co.uk) and the secretary can be contacted on e-mail: [secretary@rblr.co.uk](mailto:secretary@rblr.co.uk). The contact for Cornwall is Aidy Shears of Launceston on 01566-779777 or 07795024442. Your interest will be very much welcomed.

## **ST CLEER BRANCH – OBITUARY**

Beryl Courts was a long serving committee member of the Branch with a good record of raising hundreds of pounds each year at various social events. Her funeral service in St Cleer Parish Church on Friday April 6th was well attended by her family, friends and a large representation of Legion members. The Union and Branch Standards were on display in the church and her coffin was covered with the Union Flag.

Both her eulogy by Derek Solt and the address by Rev Keith Lanyon Jones made reference to her skill in running a raffle. "She often managed to sell you more tickets than you planned to buy" clearly struck a chord with many in the congregation and brought back fond memories and, more than a few smiles. Very few left her raffles without at least one prize. The last word this time was Beryl's: other than family flowers, her request was for donations to the Legion. These and the leaving collection raised a significant amount that will continue to benefit the local ex-service community, for which she had always worked so hard.

Ann Coles Branch

PRO

## **POPPY APPEAL - LATEST FIGURES**

The total for Cornwall has now reached £311,436.90 which is excellent. The National figure is £25M

## **COUNTY FIELD OFFICER TO TAKE EARLY RETIREMENT**

Our County Field officer has intimated his wish to retire. In a letter to the County Committee he writes:

*“Just to let you know that I have asked, and it has been accepted by Pall Mall that i will retire after 14 years as your CFO on 30th July 2007 - this will be my last working day. I have decided to go just over 2 years earlier than normal retirement at 65 to spend more time with my family for health reasons. It is hoped that a suitable replacement will be found before I depart !*

*It has been a wonderful 14 years - who would have thought when we started in 1993 in that tiny room above St Austell RBL Club with just a part-time secretary - that we would now be in new modern offices spread over 2 floors with six full time staff ?; that the Poppy Appeal would grow from just over £150,000 then to this year’s record of £311,000 :that the welfare grants t6o those in need would increase from just £6,690 in 1993 to £825,000 in 2006; that almonisation would in crease from nil in 1993 to over £425,000 last year and that we would be regular and welcome visitors to all major service bases in Cornwall. Our profile within the County has never been higher.*

*The whole County should be proud of the achievements that have been made - none of which would have been possible without the superb support of all the loyal and dedicated volunteers and committees of the Branches and the leadership and initiatives given by the CMB and the County Committee. As of last month the welfare totals since CFO office inception are:*

<b>Grants October 1993 - March 2007</b>	<b>- £4.1 Milliom</b>
<b>Almonisation same period</b>	<b>- £2.5 Million</b>
<b>Cases</b>	<b>21,000</b>

*I do not think that any other County can match such a good record of help given to those in need. I shall remain active in the RBL and I know that the County Chairman and the CWAC have plans to keep me busy as a volunteer. It has been a real pleasure and a privilege to work with you all - and thank you for all your unstinting work and unfailing dedication and your friendship.*

*Brook Blackford, County Field Officer “*

## **PERRANPORTH CELEBRATION VETERANS PARADE**

All are invited to attend this event which will take place on Saturday July 21st. The parade will leave Perranporth Fire Station at 11.30am and march to The Green where a service will be conducted by Rev Canon Perran Gay, RBL County Chaplain at noon. There will ba a Fly Past by Sea King Helicopter from RNAS Culdrose and this will followed by refreshments in the Memorial Hall. Other events include Perranporth Line Dancers at 1.45pm. Perranporth School Cornish Dancing at 2.30pm, Display by the Caledonian Pipe Band at 3pm. The Old Cleo Jazz Band at 4pm and finally a Concert in the Memorial Hall by HMS Seahawk Volunteer Band at 7.45pm.

## **QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY**

Some interesting facts came out of a survey conducted at the Recruiting project by members of Truro 730 Squadron ATC. It showed that 70% of those asked knew that the Legion did other work apart from the Poppy Appeal. 85% knew someone who had served in HM Forces.. 61% knew that members did not have to be ex-service people. Only 32% knew how many homeless ex-service men and women were helped by the Legion last year. (The answer is 300) and only18% knew how much the Legion spent in caring for ex-service people lost year in Cornwall. (the answer is £800,000)

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