

# Cornwall Legion News

January 2006

The Officers and County Committee of Cornwall Royal British Legion extend New Year Greetings to all Members, Branches and Clubs for a Prosperous 2006

## TO ALL OUR READERS

We begin the New Year with a fundamental change in the Legion structure inasmuch as classes of membership have become history and there is one membership open to all - but with an important proviso, which is not new but simply, has to be stressed. ALL who seek membership of this illustrious organisation will continue to affirm their commitment to those ideals that make the Legion what it is.

We need to recruit more people as the work we do continues to grow, and we are rightly proud of what we in Cornwall achieve. We need more hands on board if we are to continue to serve those to whom we owe so much and we invite all that are ready to make this commitment into our ranks. Please give this some thought and talk to your local Branch for more information. This is your opportunity. We will welcome you.

## POPPY APPEAL LAUNCH

This took place on October 31st and was held in the Cathedral due to bad weather. The County Chairman welcomes all present and prayers were led by Canon Roger Bush, Canon Chancellor. The opening was opened by David Braine, the TV weather presenter. A number of crosses were laid led by Lady Mary Holborow, Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall followed by representatives of the various bodies associated with the Legion.

There was a good muster of Standards from the Legion and other ex-service organisations.

Following the Exhortation, Last Post, Silence, Reveille and Kohima Epitaph, a number of cheques were received for the Poppy Appeal; £3,000 from Truro Branch, £1,857.60 from Skinners Brewery, £100 from the Normandy Veterans Assn., £341.81 from Duncan Little who did a sponsored walk and £1,000 from St Austell for the County Welfare Fund.

Group Captain Simon Coy, County President thanked all for their attendance and support.

Refreshments followed at Truro RBL and their hospitality was greatly appreciated. With £5,273.41 for the Appeal and a further £1,000 to Welfare. The launch was a great success.

## THE CAMRA BEER FESTIVAL

The 2005 event was held at Falmouth from October 21 to 23 at the Princes Pavilion and the nominated charity was the Royal British Legion Welfare Fund. The collections totalled £1,158.45, which have been received by County with sincerest appreciation to the festival promoters.

## FROM THE BRANCHES

### WADEBRIDGE

In their recent Newsletter the Branch inform us that former members of the armed forces may apply for a British Veteran's Discount Card entitling holders to discounts from some major national companies amongst others. Details can be obtained by telephone to 01473-652661 or the website [www.britishveterans.co.uk](http://www.britishveterans.co.uk)

### PELYNT AND LANREATH

The Branch celebrated Trafalgar Day on October 21st with a lunch at the Dagger Restaurant with 51 members and friends attending. Everyone enjoyed the special meal after which Lt Cdr John Lennon, President of Liskeard RNA gave a very informative, interesting and humorous talk on the life of Nelson.

Talbot, Branch Secretary

M a r y

## ILLOGAN

The Branch was formed in 1921 when the branch of the Comrades of the Great War accepted the Constitution of the British Legion, as it was then. The initial members decided to build a Branch HQ and a 30 ft. square hut was purchased from the dynamite works at nearby Hayle for £30 and erected in Alexandra Road, Illogan.

Contributors to the fund provided memorial stones which were then placed at the base of the entrance porch. On October 23rd 1923 the new Branch HQ was opened by Colonel Sir Courtney Vyvyan.

The branch always had a great interest in football and as a consequence, purchased a field from Viscount Clifden's Lanhydrock Estate for £30. This allowed members to play regularly with the result that Illogan FC was soon formed and still play in the local league today. A social club was built on the ground and the new title of Illogan RBL Social and Football Club was agreed with Pall Mall. As a result of this development the original Branch HQ became redundant and passed to the Parish Council. The historic memorial stones were then removed and reinstalled on a specially constructed plinth at the entrance to the football ground, social club and new Branch HQ.

The photograph shows the unveiling of the memorial stoned by the Lord Lieutenant, Lady Mary Holborow with RBL and Social Club Committee members.



## DONATIONS

County acknowledges with sincere thanks the following donations :-

Wadebridge Branch £145 , Mr Reynolds £105 , St Austell Branch £1,000, Padstow Branch £250, Launceston Branch £1,000, Newquay Branch £1000, Truro Round Table £3,000 and Water Aid £200 all to the County Welfare Fund and Skinners Brewery £280 and Treleigh Church £30 to the Poppy Appeal. Torpoint gave £48 and a County Officer £25 to the General Fund.

## FINAL POPPY APPEAL FIGURES FOR 2004

The National total was £23,529,306. The Cornwall total was £282,299. The County total per head of the population was 56p.

## COUNTY PRESIDENT AT MEMORIAL UNVEILING IN TAIWAN

During the Korean War, on January 28th 1951, in support of United Nations Command, Sunderland Flying Boat PP107 was flying from Irwakuni, the RAF Base near Yokohama, Japan to Hong Kong. It crashed in bad weather in Mount Yu-Li the site being 5,000 feet above ground level near the east coast of Taiwan.

As this accident occurred after 1946, the Air Ministry became responsible for the war graves, but action was not taken until much later.

The aircraft was carrying ground crew as passengers in addition to the crew totalling fourteen in all. Because of the mountainous terrain it was not possible to recover the bodies and their remains were never recovered.

As the UK does not have diplomatic relations with China there can be no ambassador. It does, however, maintain a Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan and its Director General is Mr Derek Marsh MVO with a staff of 55. Mr Marsh and Group Captain Coy, our President had served together in the British Embassy in Korea and from this association that the initiative for this Memorial arose. It was dedicated on Monday, November 14th, as near as possible to Remembrance Day and both Group Captain Coy and Mr Marsh took part.

(Compiled from an official Press Release and a report sent by our President.

(Ed.)

## CONGRATULATIONS

To Mr Joe Matta, Chairman of St Austell Branch and the Mid Cornwall Group on the well-deserved award of a Gold Badge. The award was presented at Boconnoc by Lady Mary Holborow at the County Commemoration Rally.

## From the County Chairman

As we enter yet another year we look back on 2005 with quite a degree of satisfaction on the progress we have made to date. The very noticeable increase in attendance at the Branch/Club Chairmen's meetings are showing a marked increase in awareness and willingness to become more involved. The meeting on September 28th was hopefully an indication of

interest being taken. One of the highlights of just about all our meetings currently is the input of our newly appointed Information Technology/ Website Officer, Clive Rawson, to whom we have all become keen to pay attention, as he has brought about a great leap forward in many aspects of our operations, principally within Cornwall yet providing outreach to at least seven countries around the World, from where we have received hits to our Website, which is improving almost by the day.

Several changes have taken place, both Legionwide and within our County structure, principally of creating an official "Stand alone" Branch, renaming our County Holding Branch as the Central Branch, with the requisite number of Officers and rights and responsibilities as a fully fledged Branch of the Royal British Legion. The Branch Chairman of Lt Cdr Bob Davidson AFC, who will lead the drive to build on it as a Branch of which we in Cornwall are already proud. The change of major importance is that of one membership, which, while it may not be acceptable to all, was seen to be inevitable and a step forward. It was accepted at National Conference and is now official policy. It therefore behoves us all to embrace the concept and make it work to the advantage of all concerned.

In retrospect, I must congratulate all members, specifically those of the various committees on their carrying out the execution of numerous tasks with which the County was faced, with quiet efficiency and commitment. Speaking of this, it must not be overlooked that, while our staff has slightly increased, and at this point I would welcome Annie Patterson as assistant Welfare Officer to Brook, and Elizabeth Saunders as our newly appointed Devon and Cornwall member of the National Fundraising Team, our resource centre in Lemon Street, currently overcrowded, continues to deal with more work than it can adequately handle. This reflects on the hard work being put in by our growing number of caseworkers and leads me to extend my thanks and congratulations to all our members wherever you may be. Thank you for your wonderful support.

All my very best wishes for the year ahead and may we continue to overcome the various obstacles we will inevitably find as we strive to fulfil the terms of our Royal Charter. A happy and successful year to ONE AND ALL.

R Barratt, County Chairman

## INTERNET SUCCESS

At the last County Management Meeting Clive Rawson reported that there had been over 13,000 "hits" on the new website with a small number in Australia ! Plans are going ahead for further improvements and the "Cornwall Legion News" is included. And this is just a start!

## OBITUARY

### LAUNCESTON

It is with great regret that the Branch announces the sudden death of our Vice-President and former Chairman William Henwood, known to everyone as Bill, at the age of 72. An ex member of the D.C.L.I., Bill was a stalwart of the branch for more than 25 years and also did a tremendous amount for the Ex-Service Social Club at Edymaed House. His sudden death was a great shock and he will be sadly missed.

R J Gynn, Branch Secretary

## WE'VE DONE IT!

The membership figure for 2005 is 10,005. All involved are to be congratulated. However the emphasis now lies with RETENTION and we cannot afford to lose members without replacement.

Muriel Hocking PCRO

# Women's Section News

## COUNTY CONFERENCE

Our Annual Conference took place in County Hall, Truro on Saturday, November 19th. The occasion was well supported with delegates, members and guests with eleven Standards led by County Standard Bearer Mrs Diane Marazza.

It was with great sadness when the County Chairman read a letter from our County President Lady Falmouth in which she apologised for not being present and also that she was unable to continue as our County President due to ill health. Madam Chairman expressed her gratitude to Lady Falmouth for the many years that she had devoted to the Women's Section, stating that she had been a wonderful President who would be greatly missed.

The Guest Speaker was Mrs Pam Whitehead who related to Conference her rise to National Standard Bearer and to her present office of National Parade Marshal.

ISLES OF SCILLY VISIT The Women's Section Branch on St Mary's Island recently received a visit from our County

Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. One member of the branch received her Veteran's Badge.

COUNTY AWARDS were made as follows

Certificates Small Branch (! - 29 members) Medium Branch (30 - 59 Members) Large Branch (60 Members and over)

1st	Camelford 125	Mousehole 147	Newquay 143
2nd	Truro 101	Camborne 138	St Austell 140
3rd	Penzance 95	Newlyn 105	Tywardreath 87

HANDICRAFT - CERTIFICATES

1st Mrs Mollie Hocking - Camborne 2nd Mrs Mollie Hocking - Camborne 3rd Mrs Joan Cooper - Heamoor

PRODUCE - CERTIFICATES

1st Mrs Mary Hart - Truro 2nd Mrs Margaret Ponder - Mousehole 3rd Mrs Mollie Hocking - Camborne  
HC Mrs Janet Divall Newquay

COUNTY CERTIFICATED OF APPRECIATION

Mrs S Roseveare - Launceston. Mrs S Ursell - Mousehole Mrs P Hocking - Camborne Mrs P Payne - Penzance  
Mrs P Keer - Truro Mrs P Sims - Newquay Mrs S Hendy - Menheniot.

COUNTY STANDARD BEARER Mrs D Marazza - Mousehole : DEPUTY COUNTY STANDARD BEARER Mrs J Cooper - Heamoor

Burnard Hutchens Statuette Mrs M Clark - Penzance National Merit Award Mrs P Plint - Pemryn

May I take this opportunity to wish all members a Very Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year

Beverley Carpenter, Public Relations Officer

FROM THE C.F.O.

Cornwall remains one of the top three of all Legion counties for welfare Grants and nearly £600,000 was disbursed in the last 12 months. Nearly £300,000 was almonised from other funds. Welfare demand is increasing with grants in October and November totalling £140,000 alone, nearly double the same period in '04. Over 200 homeless cases have been dealt with in 11 months with grants in excess of £130,000 of which half came from other service funds. Increasing demands include provision of disabled aids such as electric scooters and wheelchairs (up 500%), stairlifts and specialist chairs and beds. Only through the hard work of branches and caseworkers has this magnificent result been achieved. Many thanks.

BM Blackford

COPY DATE

May I please have your copy for the March edition by February 15th.

Ed.

BRANCH MANAGEMENT TRAINING

The next course will take place at St Austell RBL on Saturday February 11th commencing at 0900 hours. This could be of interest to newly elected officers from recent AGMs. Meals and travelling costs will be provided.