

Cornwall Legion News

November 2005

"At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, We will remember them"

TO ALL OUR READERS

This simply has to be a year to remember as we have joined to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the end of World War II. Our message to those who served in that conflict is a monumental "Thank You" and although we never cease to recall those who so bravely gave their lives, we also give thanks to those who served in that conflict and have continued to serve the Legion and the community over that period of time. The commemoration has taken many forms, both large and small events and these have done much to indicate the thankfulness of those who have followed in their footsteps.

We come closely to the time of the Poppy Appeal when we have the opportunity to say a further "Thank You" to those who need the Legion's help. Many of these are of advancing years and may need that extra special something that the Legion can provide. Our appeal to the public has always been well received. This year, a very special one, we ask for that continuing support. There is a need for more helpers to collect and if you can spend a few hours, please contact your local Appeal Organiser through your local branch.

A POEM FOR REMEMBRANCE "Remembrance Day" by Rozanne Ellis (ex WRNS)

Softly
The echo
From far away
Borne on the wind
Creeps on the crowded street.
The heart beat of the drums
And the muffled sound of marching feet
Stirring the senses of those days now gone
As shadows from land, sea, and air pass by.
Proudly they march and so as dreams fast drift away
Leaving only memory as the silent pageant fades
So only the empty street and monument remain
With the blood red poppies lying there
Witness to the sacrifice they made.
"Never again" we whisper softly
Have we not learnt ?
Do not forget
Just remember
Always.

The poem was sent by a member of Hayle Branch

FROM THE BRANCHES

MULLION

At a special ceremony held at Mullion School on Monday July 4th, WWII veterans were presented with their badges by Major Tony Hibbert, founder of Trebah Gardens and an Arnhem veteran. The school head teacher Mr Mike Sandford said that he was delighted that they were able to host an event commemorating the heroism and bravery of these men and women. It marked the culmination of the school's film project remembering the sacrifice of the Normandy invasion and I am sure that the two generations of veterans and students had a lot to talk about.

The seven veterans are Ron Binyon, Derek Vardy, Duggie Peters, Leonore Gerrard, Sam Munday, Osmond Gilbert and Derek Hancock. Members of Mullion Branch attended as did members of the veterans families. It was lovely to watch the pupils talking with the veterans.

Jean M Rhodes, Branch Secretary

entertained the audience with - An afternoon with Joyce Grenfell - some of her monologues and a resume' of her life.

The afternoon concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.

Mary Talbot, Branch Secretary.

DONATIONS

The latest donation made to County are £122 from Skinners Brewery to the Poppy Appeal, Tywardreath £400 to Welfare. Mousehole £1000 to the County Fund and £500 Sponsorship of the Lord Lieutenant's Cadet Competition, Truro Methodist Church collection £117 to Welfare.

The "Legion News" will continue to acknowledge all your contributions.

MEMBERSHIP

The figure to date is now 9605, up almost 300 since the last figure. Can we make it 10,000 ?

MAKE YOUR VIEWS KNOWN

The Legion prides itself on being a democratic body but this can only be demonstrated by attending your AGM and making your views known. It is here that our strength lies and members need to be involved in the decision making, It is from this point that resolutions to County and National Conferences originate. It's all too easy to leave it to someone else and then complain if they don't do what we think they should do, but if we don't make our views known - whose fault is it ?

WELFARE

Cornwall is in the forefront in Welfare work. There are at present 170 caseworkers in the County and we have to thank them most sincerely for the work they do. Up to date over half a million pounds has been disbursed in welfare payments and the demand continues. We are grateful to the CFO for his lead in this field.

FUTURE EVENTS

Branches and Clubs may have events to publicise that occur too late (or too early) for the next issue of the "Legion News" and up to the present time this has been a difficult problem. With the advent of the website this information can be sent to Clive Rawson directly on www.rblcornwall.co.uk. We also have a new Communications Director, Ian MacKay and information for the Press can be given to him on pro.culdrose@gt.net and this will be given the fullest coverage possible. We are thus improving our contact facilities. We still need all your copy for the "Legion News" and the closing date for the next edition will be December 14th.

FORMS AND PUBLICATIONS

In order to streamline procedures HQ has announced that forms and publications are available from Aylesford which ought to make them more easily accessible.

COUNTY CONFERENCE

The Annual County Conference will take place at County Hall, Truro on Sunday January 8th 2006. Branches are asked to support this and appoint their delegates. Any resolutions should be sent to the County Secretary from your AGMs. The Conference will commence at 2pm. All Standards will be especially welcome.

THANKSGIVING SERVICE IN TRURO CATHEDRAL

This was undoubtedly a memorable occasion. Organised by the Cathedral Chapter at the behest of HM Lord Lieutenant it was a County expression of Thanksgiving to mark the 60th Anniversary of the end of World War II and perhaps designed to encapsulate all those observances that had previously taken place in the County. The music set the tone of the service which involved the civic authorities, the service detachments, the Royal British Legion and other ex-service bodies with a muster of Standards from many of these bodies. The Acting Dean extended a sincere welcome to all and the singing was something to be remembered.

Some writings from the war years were read and some BBC archive clips played. The Book of Remembrance was carried to a place in the Chancel escorted by the Standards of Truro Branch and Cornwall Burma Star Association escorted by veterans of WWII. The Chaplain of RNAS Culdrose introduced the Act of Remembrance with the Exhortation spoken by Hilary Trant, WWII veteran who served in the WAAF and the Kohima Declaration by Bob Hawke who served with the 11th Indian Signals Regt and was a Far East POW. The Bishop of Truro delivered an address in which he spoke of the whole spectrum of those for whom the service was designed to commemorate. The Choir provided some wonderful singing of items appropriate to this unique occasion. This in turn was followed by a series of Prayers and Dedications by a team of young people from Truro Methodist Church led by their Minister to indicate the commitment of young people to follow in the footsteps of those to whom all present owe so much.

The final Blessing, Procession of Standards and Guests rounded off a very memorable service, a major feature of 2005. I have tried to capture the atmosphere of this service and hope that it will convey something of this event to those who were not able to be there.

Ed.

From the Womens' Section

A POEM

THE INQUISITIVE MIND OF A CHILD Author unknown

Why are they selling Poppies, Mummy ?
Selling Poppies in town today ?
The Poppies, child, are flowers of love
For the men who marched away.
But why have they chosen a Poppy, Mummy ?
Why not a beautiful rose ?
Because, my child, men fought and died
In the fields where the Poppies grow.
But why are the Poppies so red, Mummy ?
Why are the Poppies so red ?
Red is the colour of blood, my child,
The blood our soldiers shed.
The heart of the Poppy is black, Mummy.
Why does it have to be black ?
Black, my child, is the symbol of grief
For the men who never came back.
But why, mummy, are you crying so ?
Your tears are giving you pain.
My tears are for fears for you, my child
For the world is FORGETTING AGAIN.

COUNTY STANDARD BEARER

On a warm Sunday afternoon in July, Diane Marazza, our standard bearer was very proud to be one of the chosen few to take part in the WWII 60th Anniversary Parade in London. The Parade, which was led by HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh began at Admiralty Arch and proceeded down The Mall to the forecourt of Buckingham Palace. The Queen appeared on the Palace Balcony for the RAF Fly Past. The crowd in The Mall cheered when the Battle of Britain Flight flew over and the poppies dropped from the Lancaster was an emotional finale to a truly memorable day.

Diane also attended the Civic VE/VJ Anniversary Service in Truro Cathedral on Sunday September 11th. The Women's Section was represented by Mrs B Morrison, County Chairman accompanied by Mr Morrison. Later that day Diane took part in the Battle of Britain service at Penzance.

STANDARD BEARER'S UNIFORM FOR SALE

Penzance Branch has a size 14 Standard Bearer's uniform for sale. All enquiries to Mrs P Bawden Tel.01736-367042

COUNTY CONFERENCE

The Annual Womens' Section Conference will be held at County Hall, Truro on Saturday November 19th at 2.15 pm. During the past few years the number of delegates and Standard Bearers attending has diminished. It is hoped, therefore, that everyone will make the effort this year to come along, meet old friends, make new friends and give support to those who spend so much time in the organisation of this important day.

Mrs Beverley Carpenter, Publicity Officer

STANDARD BEARERS' COMPETITION

The results of this competition, held at Truro on Sunday, October 2nd was :

Branches : 1st. Mr T Williams - Camborne 2nd. Mr P Robinson - Truro 3rd. Mr A L Burge - Gwennap and District
Womens' Sections: 1st. Mrs D Marazza - Mousehole and 2nd Mrs J Cooper - Heamoor

COPY DATE

May I please have your copy by December 14th or earlier if possible as Christmas intervenes. This will be for the first issue in January 2006.

HARVEST FESTIVAL AT NEWQUAY

The Branch held its Annual Harvest Festival on Sunday October 2nd commencing with a service conducted by Branch Chaplain Rev Celia Phillips. There was a good display of produce donated by members and friends and these were auctioned by Mr G Randell, Branch Vice Chairman. The event was for the Branch Benevolent Fund and the sum of £319.15 was realised. Mr R E Coad, Branch Chairman thanked all who had helped with both gifts and support for this very pleasant evening.

COUNTY MEETING OF BRANCH AND CLUB CHAIRMEN

This is a meeting held twice annually and the latest took place on September 28th when 24 of the County's Branches and 5 of the 19 Clubs were represented. The object of these meetings is to provide a forum for the exchange of information and to discuss the latest innovations and changes within the community Legion. Taking the Legion Forward featured and it was stressed that Cornwall is well advanced in this field and that this will be launched throughout the country in 2005/2006.

Other points of interest recorded included the report by Brook Blackford, our CFO. In it he gave some Welfare Statistics that shows that 2005 will be a record year with Welfare Grants of over £510,000 from 3,700 calls which is an increase of 20% on 2004.

Yet another cause for serious concern is the problem of Homelessness in the Ex-Service community and the CFO's office has dealt with 89 cases in the past 12 weeks alone. To date 190 cases of homelessness have been completed in the past year with an average spend in each case of £1,000. Of this sum 50% has been raised through almonisation. A Field Welfare Officer (FWO Homeless) has been in post for the past three months which indicates the specialist nature of this part of the Legion's work.

RBL CLUBS UPDATE

We have some information on the new Legion Clubs Initiative in which professional management can be made available to clubs that formally request it. A trial will be taking place in a chosen area featuring five selected clubs in a small area and the outcome will be studied carefully. Here in Cornwall we have recently lost one club and the outcome of this trial may prove beneficial to any club experiencing difficulties.

TRAINING

The County Training Officer has established a condensed Branch Management Course designed to help branch committee members. With AGM's now taking place this can present an opportunity for newly elected committee members to learn something that will help them as they progress to officer status. Two courses are planned for each year.