



Devon County Newsletter

Autumn 2009

Diary Dates:

County Rally
Okehampton Camp
Sun 13 September
2009

Poppy Appeal Launch
Exeter City FC 3pm
Sat 24 Oct

Festival of
Remembrance
Great Hall Exeter
Thu 5 November 2009

Candlelit Carol Concert
St Andrews Church
Plymouth
Sat 19 December 2009

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

It is with regret that we announce the death of:

Major J Lear OBE RM (Retired) of the Woodbury Branch
Mr B Bale of the North Tawton Branch

We are grateful for their devoted service and their efforts on behalf of the Royal British Legion and extend our deepest sympathies to their families.

The National Chairman has recently approved the following awards:

Gold Badge — Mr E Barnes Brixham Branch
Gold Badge — Mr F Archer Dawlish Branch
Gold Badge — Mr R Leech Dawlish Branch

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN LEGION FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

Recently, Head Office have observed on more than one occasion that both Branches and Clubs in Devon had received some very favourable write ups in the local media for their efforts in raising monies for Help for Heroes. This unfortunately has caused some concern that the Membership is raising monies for another charity whilst using the Royal British Legion's name, logo and organisation. I have always taken the view that we can work jointly with other like minded charities and in the case of Help for Heroes we have successfully raised monies recently by sharing equally between the charities.

Needless to say, I am not in a position to question anyone's intentions as individuals, but as a membership organisation I must remind everyone that we should only be fundraising in accordance with the objects of our Charity; this is very clear in the Royal Charter and is also reflected in all Royal British Legion Club Rules. More importantly, if a Branch or Club portrays itself as one organisation (The Legion) and collects for another organisation (Help for Heroes) we could be guilty of misleading the public. In addition, by using the Legion's umbrella for this type of event, our duty of care to our members is especially questionable, as the Legion's Public Liability Insurance could be void. In view of this, I must ask all Branches and Clubs to refrain from raising funds for other charities or organisations using the Legion's umbrella unless you receive advice from the County Office that it is correct to do so.

2008 DEVON COUNTY POPPY APPEAL TOTAL (as at 30 August 2009)

Devon County: £820K (753K 2007) National: £30m
Huge thanks to all responsible for this impressive total.



KINGSBRIDGE POPPY WALK

39 Walkers ageing from 10-73 walked the 6 miles from Kingsbridge to Salcombe and with the help of the local, police, Tally Hoe Coaches and the Air Cadet Corps, raised £1569 for the Poppy Appeal. Many thanks to Hazel Matthews for organising the event and continuing the in year fundraising at Kingsbridge.

CREDITON BRANCH

To mark Armed Forces Day the Crediton Branch held a coffee morning raising £451 for the Poppy Appeal and recruited 7 new members.

IVYBRIDGE BRANCH

A Saturday BBQ raised £600 and £205 from a Euchre tournament brings Ivybridge's total for this years Poppy Appeal to over £20k.

CROWNHILL PRESENTATION

Mrs Sylvia Ryan, Chairwoman of the Crownhill Women's Section receives her 30 year brooch for her contribution to the Poppy Appeal from Brian Cumming County Chairman, at a recent social evening hosted by Crownhill Branch. The event took place at Crownhill Club with the President of Devon Rear Admiral R Cheedle and the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Plymouth in attendance. The Lord Mayor of Plymouth Mr Ken Foster is also a member of the Crownhill Branch and Club.



COUNTY OFFICE FLAGPOLE



With the generous support of Dawlish RBL the County Office now proudly flies the Union Flag from a 20' flag pole situated at the front entrance. Rather than just listening to the too frequent news of fatalities in Afghanistan, we are now at least able to lower our flag to half mast, for 24 hours.

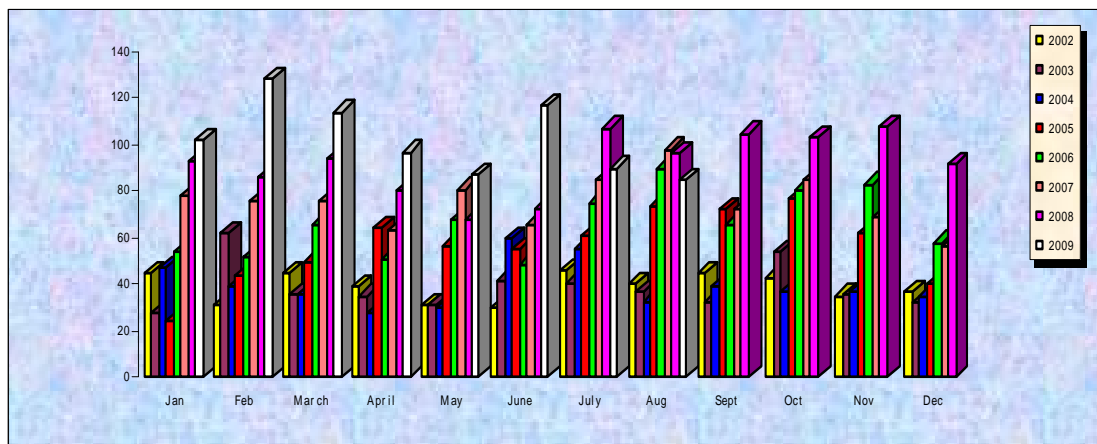
Representing Devon RBL, this is a small yet poignant way of acknowledging the tragic loss of another courageous member of our Armed Forces. Any branch that is able to emulate this practise is strongly encouraged so to do.



County and local Branch Officers, together with local Standard Bearers attended a moving ceremony commemorating the loss of the crew of a Halifax Bomber that crashed at Langtree during the 2nd World War. The crew was made up of RAF and RAAF personnel. Over 200 people attended the event which included senior RAF personnel and representatives from the Australian Embassy.

WELFARE

Welfare Cases: Based on the number of new cases thus far, we are now anticipating over 1200 by the end of this year, as against 1106 new cases in 2008. Historical details on graph below:



Caseworkers: We currently hold 130 x Volunteers and 75 x Professional Caseworkers in Devon. The next Update Course is scheduled for: Sat 03 Oct, at the County Office, Exeter:

Future Training: Apart from Plymouth and Torbay we do not need anything other than 'replacement' Caseworkers in most of Devon. The CM will shortly write to those people who have been recommended and earmarked as candidates for next year's Training Course, to invite them to attend the following courses:

- **Induction Cses (including CRB process):** either of the following:
Wed 02 Dec, County Office, Exeter.
Sat 05 Dec, County Office, Exeter.
- **Training Course:** 20-21 Feb 2010, County Office, Exeter.

Poppy Support Handbook: All caseworkers should have received their copy by now. We hope you will agree that it is a vast improvement on its predecessor.

Homeless & Vulnerable: Our Mon Abri (Alabare) hostel in Plymouth has successfully 'discharged' its first resident back into the community, thus demonstrating its effectiveness. This bodes well for the future, and we remain optimistic.

Welfare Assistance to the Serving: We continue to provide a BMA service to CTCRM at Lypstone, we have become involved in assisting 2 seriously injured Royal Marines (amputees) in Plymouth, and we have offered our services to the newly formed Hasler Company at HMS Drake. Time will tell as to how much we become involved. The potential for this type of help is huge.

Commander Rick Ryan, USN, Fundraising Wheelchair Pedal from Lands End to John O'Groats: Very many thanks to Okehampton, Chagford and Exeter Branches for so kindly rallying at short notice to support Rick Ryan as he 'sped' up the A30 towards to Exeter, where he was welcomed by an RBL organised Lord Mayoral reception. Well done everybody. We have yet to hear how much money was raised for the Poppy Appeal. Rick completed his challenge in a record breaking 8.5 days.

SUPPORT TO ARMED SERVICES FUNERALS

As we are all too well aware Devon has felt the ongoing tragic loss of life in Afghanistan, as witnessed by the number of funerals of our young Servicemen in this county. Each one has received the respect and dedication of our superb Standard Bearers, and County Parade Marshal, to whom we are most grateful for their unflinching support. This support is always appreciated by the bereaved families, and the general public, indeed, we were humbled to receive the following from Mr David King, of West Buckland, recently:

"Dear Sir, on behalf of my wife and I, I would like to express my thanks and gratitude to the British Legion for their presence and dignified contribution to the funeral of our son Chris. He was a proud Guardsman and I am sure he would have appreciated, and been honoured by, the representation of so many branches of your organisation. Yours Sincerely, David and Shelagh King".

**THE ROYAL
BRITISH LEGION
DEVON COUNTY**

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**COMMANDO
CHALLENGE**

10/11 OCT 09

Volunteers are urgently needed to act as stewards for the Commando Challenge this year. The Poppy appeal will receive 20% of sponsorship which could be as much as £30K. However, we need to provide 20 volunteers each day to help run the event. If you can help with either day please contact the CFR Carole Arnold on 01392 273111

THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION



Payment of Affiliation Fees

All Branches now have their affiliation fees collected by Direct Debit in February/March each year through Head Office. Therefore, it is unnecessary for Branches to forward any monies or cheques in respect of new applications to the County Office throughout the year. A Statement showing all cards issued throughout the year will be sent in February each year to Branches with the end of year notification of the amount to be debited from accounts.

Attendance at local event by Devon Deputy Lieutenant's

The Lord Lieutenant has indicated that where appropriate Deputy Lieutenant's (DL) should attend local RBL events. Branches who may feel that a DL attendance is appropriate should apply to the County Officer initially.

Branch Websites

The PRO has advised that a number of Branch websites appear out of date. In an effort to ensure up to date information is available to the wider public, Branches are asked to sustain local websites with the most current information.

DEVON POPPY APPEAL LAUNCH

This year we will launch the Devon Poppy Appeal at Exeter Football Club on Saturday 24 October 2009 at approximately 2.45pm prior to kick off. An excellent opportunity to support one of the County's professional football teams and the Poppy Appeal.

Exeter City FC v Wycombe FC

**Devon County
Festival of Remembrance
The Great Hall Exeter University
Thursday 5 November 2009
at 7.30 pm (doors open 6.30pm)**

**Tickets at £7 each are available
from the County Office:**

**01392 272211
rjennings@britishlegion.org.uk**

COUNTY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

County Committee Meetings will be held in the County Office on:
Saturdays: 26 Sep 09 and 28 Nov 09 at 1030 hours.

To allow transparency of County business and to provide Branches an open forum, the County Meetings are now open to all members and Branches are encouraged to send a representative.

The County Directory, Photo Album and the Newsletter plus details of forthcoming events which are published to the Devon County Website including downloadable printable versions of advertisements:

<http://rbldevon.co.uk>