



Spring 2013

Edition 3/2013

County Service of Rededication

On a bright sunny Sunday, 5 May, St Botolph's Parish Church, Saxilby was the venue for the County Service of Rededication Service 2013. The event began with the ringing of the Church bells, closely followed by the parade of 22 Standards on the short march to the Church, led by the County deputy Standard Bearer, Graham Hewitt, carrying the Union Flag, and the two County Standards carried by Richard Kemp and Lizzie Bartlett.



The County Patron, Tony Worth (HM Lord Lieutenant) took the salute with the High Sheriff and other civic leaders, County Presidents (past and present), the County Chairman and Committee Members, and Branch members from around the County. The Standards then formed a Guard of Honour for the dignitaries to walk through before entering the Church, which was filled with around 150 people.

Members of the Saxilby Parish Church Committee gave valuable help both prior to the event and on the day and ensured that the Rededication event proceeded smoothly

The Rev Canon Rhys Prosser, Vicar of St Botolph's, was presented with the main Standards and welcomed dignitaries and guests from Lincolnshire and many neighbouring Counties. The lessons were read by the County President and the Women's

Section County President and the Rev Canon John Thorold, the Legion's County Chaplain, gave the address after which he dedicated the new County Youth Standard and presented it to the County Youth Standard Bearer, Miss Lily-May Kemp. The singing of the hymns was greatly enhanced by the support of the excellent church choir.

The service ended with the Act of Homage and the Prayer of Dedication. The Standards were then marched out of the Church again to form a Guard of Honour for the dignitaries and guests.

Light refreshments were served in the Church Hall led by Women's Section Chairman, Mrs Brenda Pocklington, and her team of able helpers. Next, the County Patron presented the County Chairman, Tony Goodwin, with a Life Membership award for services to the Legion – *separate article on page 3*. This ended a very enjoyable afternoon and it was nice to see so many visiting dignitaries from other Counties.



Lincolnshire – A Winning Team

Safeguarding the welfare, interests and memory of those who are serving or who have served in H. M. Armed Forces
Registered Charity No: 219279

CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

My thanks go to all those who made the long journey to Wales to attend our Annual Conference. Lincolnshire was well represented and Branches had the opportunity to vote on some important matters.

History may well decide that Conference 2013 was a missed opportunity to review the way we do our business. After a lively discussion, voting was against the proposals put forward by John Farmer; the National Chairman. Perhaps this was a vote not against the content of the proposals but more about the way they had been presented to the Members. There was also a feeling that too much change is taking place at the present time and this was a step too far. I have no doubt that the content of the proposals will be presented to another Conference in the near future, but let us hope that it will be discussed more fully with members before we are asked to vote on it.

Within the County, Pathway for Growth is slowly moving forward. We have not yet taken any formal decision on the location of a new County Office other than it will most likely be in Lincoln. In the meantime we continue to provide all the usual services at Wellingore.

Our County Service of Rededication at Saxilby was a very successful day and it was good to see members from all parts of the County and visitors from neighbouring counties. We received excellent support from the team at St Botolph's Church from our initial planning visit right through to the provision of refreshments. Furthermore, due to the generosity of the

the Parochial Church Council, the total cost to us for this splendid day was NIL.

The dedication of our County Youth Standard was the culmination of a combined effort of all those Branches who contributed to the cost of buying it. Thank you all. The challenge now is to ensure that we have Youth Members who compete for the honour of carrying the Standard. That is the responsibility of you all.

I believe that *LegionLincs* is a vital tool in the County to make sure that our news and views reach every Branch. Since we were forced to review our printing and distribution costs we have made maximum use of digital distribution, which has proved to be quite effective. However I am fully aware that not every Branch Secretary has the means, the time or the inclination to copy off several pages of print. I have had preliminary discussion with our editor, Steve Bonde, expressing my concerns that some members may be missing out on *LegionLincs*. Steve has made some observations in this issue and I too would welcome your views. Would your Branch pay for the costs of printing and postage?

We need you to tell us and then we can make sure that no one is missing out and everyone is included in the news and views of the County.

Kind regards,

Tony Goodwin
County Chairman

Stella Willing, MBE

As many Branches will be aware, our former County Vice President, Stella Willing MBE, passed away in hospital on Friday, 17 May after a short illness.

Stella became involved with the Legion when she was a teenager, helping her mother sell poppies. She became a member herself after her war service in the Auxiliary Territorial Service, and became a dedicated welfare case officer and County Vice President, spearheading fundraising and the annual Poppy Appeal for many years.

Stella was a long time President of Grimsby Branch as well as a welfare worker and poppy seller; she became their Service secretary in 1980 and also PAO. In 1998 she received the MBE for more than 60 years' service with the Legion.



Photograph courtesy of the Grimsby Times

Stella was always very kind and helpful to people in need, but did not suffer fools gladly. Unfortunately Stella became ill in latter years and had to spend the last five years in a residential home. Stella will be very sadly missed by everyone. She was very much a part of the Legion family. A funeral service will be held at 1.40pm on Friday, 7 June at Grimsby Crematorium.

Lincolnshire – A Winning Team

County Chairman Awarded National Life Membership

Mr Tony Goodwin BEM was surprised by the presentation of the National Life Membership of the Legion by Mr Tony Worth, the Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire, following the Annual Rededication Service.

Tony has been a member of The Royal British Legion since he joined Surfleet Branch in 1985. He was elected Branch Vice-Chairman in 1992 and in 1995 he became the Branch Chairman, an office he holds to this day.

Tony has held a number of Lincolnshire County Committee positions culminating in his election as County Chairman in 2003, an office he still holds. In addition to his County duties he has served on the Halsey House Amenities Committee since 2000 and is currently its Chairman.

He has also served the Legion at National level; on the National Conference Committee from 2005 to date, and as the East Midlands Region representative on the Membership Council from 2009 to 2011, a position he relinquished to concentrate on County matters.

Tony was recommended for the award of National Life Membership of the Legion by the President and members of the Surfleet Branch, supported by the County President and the County Committee. Tony has been a stalwart of the Legion in Lincolnshire for the past 27 years transforming it into one of the Legion's best counties and is richly deserving of this award.

National Standard Bearers' Competition



Richard proudly holds his presentation glass tankard for competing in the Finals.

County Standard Bearer Richard Kent had his best result yet in the National Standard Bearers' Competition at the National Conference in Llandudno on 17 May. There were nine competitors on the day and Richard was a credit to the County coming 5th in the fiercely contested competition. Just to make the finals is quite an achievement; Richard should be very proud of his performance.

The winner was Norman Espie from Northern Ireland, a great year for the Ireland bearers as they won the Youth and came 3rd in the Women's Competitions earlier in the year.

National Youth Standard Bearers' Competition

Lily-May Kemp, Lincolnshire's Youth Standard Bearer, is now also the Deputy National Youth Standard Bearer after giving an impressive performance to finish second at this year's event at the

Bulwell TA Centre, Nottingham on 14 April.

There was a good mix of entrants - three male and three female, from the North West, East Midlands, South East, Wales, Northern Ireland and Northern Regions took part. The final results were:

- 1st Stephen Parke (N Ireland). National Youth Standard Bearer
- 2nd Lily-May Kemp (East Midlands). Deputy National Youth Standard Bearer
- 3rd Niamh Lucey (Northern)



After commenting on the high standard of the competitors the National Chairman John Farmer presented the Elms Cup to the winner and certificates to all of the competitors. This was his 9th year of attending the competition and tThe event was well attended by spectators. As usual many travelled from Lincolnshire to support Lily-May, but it was also nice to see several from Ireland to support Stephen. This was Lily-May's last chance in the youth competition as she will be ineligible to enter next year, but she can be proud of her achievement to secure the runner up position. Lincolnshire are therefore now looking for a suitable cadet/youth to compete to carry the new County Youth Standard next year.

Any Branches with eligible members who would like to compete in this year's County competition in September should contact the Standard Bearers School, County Secretary or attend the next session at Crowland RBL hall on Sunday June 23 – 2.00pm start

Lincolnshire – A Winning Team

Annual National Conference – Llandudno 18-19 May 2013

National Conference was a varied affair this year – the registration process probably needs a bit more work on it, the Membership Council Forum could be made a little more two-way, but the main Conference certainly did not lack interest, tension and meaning. And finally it all ended in smiles and tears as the Chairman, John Farmer, handed over power, after three years, as Chairman to his successor. It all got almost emotional as the delegates rose to a standing ovation.

Membership Council Forum

The so-called forum-cum-lecture was interesting, if lacking a tad in democracy.

a) It was used to reveal Legion plans to develop ‘Comradeship’

- bringing people together, based on mutual respect, and creating goodwill;
- engaging people and welcoming non-veterans who want to offer their support;
- providing a sense and purpose and belonging.

They want us to be more outward-facing in the local community, to be proactive and open and welcoming to newcomers and new ideas, and to aim to support the wider Armed Forces community and young peoples’ organisations. There will be more appropriate training, which has been transferred to the Membership Council, which will offer improved content and value. This will aim to enhance our reputation and improve perceptions, demonstrate our relevance and resilience, and to create a spirit of teamwork. There will be special encouragement for members to take up opportunities and roles in volunteering; they see a growing importance for volunteering in the next 5 years. The strapline will be *Good people doing good things and feeling good about it*.

b) ‘Military Membership’, introduced last year, has got off to a good start with 73 joining in the first two months. It costs ‘military’ members nothing and gives them all the rights of ordinary members, except voting rights. The hope is that by getting them ‘half’ involved now they will join properly at some future date. We were encouraged to get more military personnel involved in stunts for the Legion.



John Farmer says farewell.

Speeches

In the Conference proper, there were the usual speeches by the National President, Chairman, Director General and Dep. Director General, and the Chairman of the Royal Canadian Legion. Some of the key facts revealed were:

- The Armed Forces Covenant is now the law of the land. 303 (75%) local Governments have signed up to the Covenant; the aim is to ‘recruit’ them all by end of 2013.
- The Legion has identified dementia as a key future problem and is adding dementia beds to its care homes. We are building a new 30 bed dementia care home in Somerset, and are working with Dementia UK to help develop more home-based dementia care.
- There will be bumps along the *Pathway for Growth* but it will revitalise the Legion.
- Total income raised was £132.8m, up by £6.7m; Expenditure is up £6.1m, including a total of £104m on welfare. The caseload is up by 20%.
- Of every £1 spent, 21p goes on fundraising, 1p on administration, and 78p on welfare.
- The *Legion Magazine* cost £1.4m. A third of this cost has been moved to the Membership account.
- The problems in the Membership outsource at Eastleigh have been caused by an old, outdated computer system and ‘overwork’.
- *Poppy Calls* performed 19,800 jobs for 7300 people last year.
- *Civvy Street* served 70,000 clients last year.
- *Be the Boss* helped 1900 people last year with 96 starts and £667,000 of funding.
- *BMA* helped 11,400 people unlock £37.6m of assets.
- The Break Centres are now available to service personnel returning from deployment.
- The Royal Canadian Legion has 320,000 members; the RBL has 318,000. (!)



The Parade of Standards and Delegates to the War Memorial

The Motions

Charter Motion 1 (Revision of the Royal Charter)

Two arguments illuminated this Motion. One was plaudits and approval for the excellent revision and simplification of the existing Royal Charter. Both sides shared this view. But it was clear that many delegates had no idea that the proposed change to Rule 14 would remove the power of Conference to reject any future Charter Motions proposed by the Trustees. Eventually, and with the able support of three very large Ulstermen, the argument was made against this removal of the current checks and balances.

Lost – For 194 (44%) Against 242 Total 436

Charter Motion 2 (To enable the Women's Section to enrol under 16s)

Carried – For 443 (91%) Against 39 Total 482

Charter Motion 3 (To give Annual Conference a role in the governance of the Legion)

Stamford Branch led the argument, supported by Bourne and more than a dozen delegates, for Conference to have the right to raise matters of administration which affect Branches and the governance of the Legion in general. The only argument against came from the Chairman of the Trustees who questioned whether Conference should be allowed to micromanage the Legion.

Carried - For 374 (86%) Against 62 Total 436.

Charter Motion 4 (Clarification of the Charter to ensure that fundraising in the name of the Legion is solely on behalf of the Legion and only for the furtherance of the Legion's objects.)

Carried - For 329 (74%) Against 106 Total 435

Charter Motion 5 (To add 'and Remembrance' between 'commemoration' and 'of those who have died' in the Royal Charter).

Curiously the only reference to 'Remembrance' in the Charter is to the *Festival of Remembrance*. This Motion aimed to give the concept more prominence.

Carried – For 418 (98%) Against 8 Total 426

Motion 1 (To lobby the Government to ensure that the pension rights of Service personnel being made compulsorily redundant are not adversely affected)

Carried – For 416 (98%) Against 8 Total 424

Motion 2 (Criticising the Legion for not claiming its fair share of publicity for its welfare work)

This criticised the Legion for allowing *Help for Heroes* to claim most if not all the publicity for joint Legion/H4H welfare projects.

Carried – For 413 (97%) Against 14 Total 427

Motion 3 (To designate one date for the launch of the Poppy Appeal across the country)
Lost – the proposer/delegate did not appear

Motion 4 (To specify a national day of action for eg 'a stall in the market')

This was opposed for being impractical, eg markets are held on different days everywhere.

Lost – For 152 (35%) Against 278 Total 430

Motion 5 (To tidy up the Legion's Mission Statement to reflect a more unified approach to working with other charities).

This was opposed because it did not offer a new Mission Statement

Lost – For 157 (37%) Against 267 Total 426

Motion 6 (The Legion should present one year's free Legion membership to every Service man and woman on their discharge from the Armed Forces)

Carried – For 209 (51%) Against 202 Total 411

Motion 7 (Almost an exact duplication of Motion 6)

The success of Motion 6 meant that this Motion was not needed.

Motion 8 (To raise the membership fee to £16 a year immediately).

Lost – For 155 (36%) Against 277 Total 432

Motion 9 (The Government should strike a medal for Bomber Command)

The Trustees explained that medals are awarded for gallantry and campaigns, not for service in specific military units or commands.

Carried – 246 (63%) Against 144 Total 390

Motion 10 (The CWGC should be asked to provide the same level of care to UK based war graves as they do those abroad.)

It was explained that the CWGC owns the sites of War Graves abroad and thus have a free hand in caring for them. In the UK such graves are located in thousands of sites, all owned by churches, Government, or privately. Some war graves were set up 90 years ago and the families have died or moved on since. Local authorities are responsible for these graves and are paid by the CWGC to care for them. The CWGC are trying to improve their service in the UK but in many cases they simply do not have free access to these sites.

Carried – For 237 (61%) Against 150 Total 399.

National Elections

As a result of the recent Legion's Elections have been announced and the following have been elected:

National Vice-Chairman Terry Whittles

Board of Trustees Neil Salisbury Bill Parkin David Whimpenny

Membership Council West Midlands James Wilson
East Midlands Edwin Allen
Overseas Rodney Bedford

Barnack & District Branch

A group of 40 from **Barnack & District Branch** visited the Harrier Heritage Centre at RAF Wittering on 17 April where they enjoyed a guided tour of the Harrier display and a most interesting and informative presentation on the history of the base. Several members also had an opportunity to shoot on the DCCT (electronic) indoor range. Their guest of honour was Cliff Shepherd from the Stamford Branch. Cliff will be 100 years old on 2 July and was an RAF Regiment Warrant Officer during WWII when he was mentioned in dispatches for his role in shooting down enemy aircraft during the Battle of the Bulge.

Several Barnack members also attended the annual Anzac Day commemoration on 25 April at Sgt. Hunter's grave in Broadway Cemetery, Peterborough. As a result of the efforts of Bill Dalglish, OA, this has grown into a major event, attended by the Deputy Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, the Mayor of Peterborough, representatives of the Armed Forces of Australia, New Zealand and the UK, local RBL and cadet units and civic dignitaries.

Bourne & District honour their stalwarts

Over 45 members of **Bourne & District Branch** and the **Bourne WS** attended their annual dinner on 23 March. They were joined by the Deputy Mayor of Bourne and by Tony Goodwin and Bridget Wilcox, Chairman and Deputy Chairman respectively of Lincolnshire RBL, who led the Act of Homage. The main event of the evening was the presentation by Branch President, Maj. Simon Turner DL of a Gold Badge to the Branch Vice President, Tim Bladon, for over 30 years' service to the Branch. County Certificates of Appreciation were then presented to David Staples and Nobby Middleton MBE, for 12 years' service as Branch Secretary and Vice Chairman respectively, followed by the award of a Branch Certificate to David Higgs for his past service as Branch Chairman and Parade Marshal.

Finally, a Branch Certificate was presented to the Bourne Detachment of the ACF who affiliated with the Branch ten years ago. Since then they have collected for the Poppy Appeal each year, collecting an average of £500 pa. They also provide the Branch with a Standard Bearer for Remembrance Sunday and other ceremonial events, as well as supporting other organisations at social and public events.

New 617 Squadron Memorial dedicated



A new 617 Squadron Memorial was unveiled by Air Marshal Sir Andrew Pulford KCB, CBE, RAF, in Royal Square, Woodhall Spa. The tribute is to all air and ground crew from 617 Squadron who gave their lives for their country since 1945 and it sits alongside the Squadron's WWII memorial. Its shape symbolises the Vulcan and Tornado aircraft flown by the Squadron in the years after the war.

Two of the last surviving original Dambusters, Pilot Les Munro, 94, and bomb aimer George 'Johnny' Johnson, 91, were also present and gave their seal of approval to the new memorial, saying that the black granite sculpture was very fitting.

John Egerton, Chairman of **Woodhall Spa & District Branch**, laid a wreath on behalf of the Branch. Branch Standard Bearer, Phil Avery, and

Branch Union Standard Bearer, Stuart Holmes, also took part. A flypast by a Lancaster bomber took place, followed by two Tornados bearing special 'Dambusters 70' tail art.



A new home and a quiz

Some sixty Branch members and friends turned out on Wednesday, 15 May for **Stamford Branch's** monthly General Meeting – but whether it was curiosity to see their new venue in the Clubroom of Stamford AFC, or for the quiz is debateable; probably the former with its very attractive bar prices. Nevertheless, everyone formed up into teams – *the Know-noughts, the Double D Team, the Deeping Trio, etc* – to face such posers as '*Who won her first, and probably only BAFTA this year?*' and to try and identify yet another ten tricky photographs of everyday sights in Stamford which no-one ever sees. The Quiz Master knows he has got it right when the groans go up – and many did that night.

Lincolnshire – A Winning Team

Woodhall Spa Country Show 2013



from the stall. We had a number of donations given to the Poppy Appeal by the general public at the Show and also received many compliments on the work of the Royal British Legion. A number of tomato plants donated by Branch Member, Christine Hall, also sold well. The total amount raised for the Branch Poppy Appeal was £100.

Sausage & Mash



Well satisfied in Stamford ...

Sports Club on 23 April. The occasion was, as one of Wilds' pupils remarked, 'better than school dinners'! They all gave Joyce and John, their hosts, a big round of applause for all their efforts, and thanks also go to Pat Savory and John & Beryl Ingham for collating the names and collecting the cash, to Roy & Marian for raising £72 in the raffle, and to those who brought prizes. A special mention also goes to David Young who bought raffle tickets for each of the Wilds' boys, enabling them to win all the alcohol!, and to Bob Cox who promptly auctioned each raffle prize he won. Brilliant!

Due to unforeseen problems, Spilsby had to postpone their event until Saturday, 18 May at the White Hart Hotel Spilsby. The forty members and guests who attended also had a fantastic evening. The meal was excellent and entertainment was provided by a local group 'The Noisy Tuesdays', who played music from the 50's 60's and 70's. Members sang along and the more energetic amongst danced the night away. Ross Dawson, a pupil from King Edward VI Humanities College in Spilsby, who played the snare drum at last year's Remembrance Parade, was signed up as the Branches first Youth Member.



... and in Spilsby

Spalding Awards Buffet & Dance

Spalding Branch is holding a Dance & Buffet at the Spalding Services Social Club for their annual awards night on Friday, 28 June, starting at 6.30 for 7.00pm. Live music will also be provided by The Hayley Brothers. Tickets are available for £7 each from Mrs D.P.Hewitt, Branch Entertainments Officer, on 01775 766113.

Racing at Spalding

Spalding Branch are also holding a Race Night at the Services Social Club on Thursday, 1 August, starting at 7.00pm. Tickets will cost £5, which will include a fish & chip supper.

Bourne 90th Anniversary

Bourne & District Branch celebrate their 90th Anniversary in 2014 and are planning a Dinner Dance for 12 April 2014. Anyone wishing to celebrate with them should contact Branch Chairman, Terry Butler, on 01778 393814 or trb048@hotmail.co.uk

Pinchbeck Tombola

Pinchbeck Women's Section will have a Tombola stall at the Pinchbeck Carnival on Saturday, 8 June, starting at 12 noon. All proceeds will go to the Women's Purse funds. Last year the ladies were awarded 1st prize for best decorated stall, so they are hoping to win again this year.

Armed Forces Day 2013

Langtoft, The Deepings & District Branch will celebrate Armed Forces Day 2013 with a festival at the John Eve Field, Market Deeping. The show starts at 10.00am on 29 June and will feature side shows, an inflatable assault course, food & drink stalls, a bouncy castle, face painting, craft stores, a car boot sale, and other entertainments. It will climax with a Drumhead Service at 6.00pm, followed by the Grand Draw. Admission free.

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Inter-Branch Collaboration

Over the last few months **Spilsby, Skegness and Alford Branches** have been setting up a close working relationship with their members supporting each other at Branch events. This has been very successful in forging friendships between the Branches.

At the end of July representatives from the three Branches are going to the National Memorial Arboretum for the dedication of a tree bought by the three branches. A plaque will name the Branches and be a place that members and others may visit to lay wreaths or plant crosses in remembrance of local veterans. Woods Funeral Directors have kindly helped by sponsoring this venture.

Plans to twin Lincolnshire with a town in Netherlands before war-link fades

Lincolnshire plans to twin with Dronten, a small Dutch town built in 1960 on land reclaimed from the Ljsselmeer following partial drainage of the Zuiderzee after WWII. During the work, scores of ditched Lancaster and Halifax bombers were discovered in the silt, many of which had flown from Lincolnshire.

A memorial to the Allied bomber crews, who hit back at the occupying Germans, was created using a damaged propeller from one of the crashed planes, an aircraft from Wickenby. The tribute also recognises the Operation Manna food drops to the starving Dutch towards the end of the war from Lincolnshire bases



"Bomber Command, Friends of Dronten" twinning Group visited the Netherlands early in May in the hope of cementing the friendship for generations to come. The Dutch then visited here between 15 and 19 May to tour the county's air bases, attend a City of Lincoln Council reception and the 70th anniversary Dambusters' Raid service at Lincoln Cathedral.

The chairman of the county's town twinning federation Michael Cutler said: "The twinning of a town with a whole county is unique and a wonderful idea. The people of Dronten are warm-hearted people and are now appealing to those in Lincolnshire to set up a twinning arrangement whereby exchange visits are made between interested British families in Lincolnshire and the residents of Dronten. They want to keep the links alive and ongoing. Future exchanges could involve younger people and Lincolnshire schools and sports teams.



Members of the three Branches also attended a Memorial Service on March 4th at Ulceby Cross where a Lancaster was shot down during a training flight in 1944 by a marauding German fighter.



Since the 1970s, veterans from the Air Gunners' Association have taken part in cultural exchanges every year with the citizens of Dronten, but their numbers have dwindled. The Mayor of Dronten, the 4th of May (Dutch Remembrance Day) Foundation, and the town's people have been worried about losing the link with the British. So a small contingent from the

Spilsby's busy Summer

Spilsby & District Branch are organising a 50's 60's Dance at the Franklin Hall in Spilsby on Saturday, 6 July at 7.30 pm, with dancing to 'Sally's Army' Rock and Roll Band. Join them for a great evening. Tickets are £6 per head Bring your own drink, but tea coffee and nibbles and a Grand Raffle will be available. The Branch will be parading at the Spilsby Show on Sunday, 14 July supported by local standards and Air Cadets.

Their always popular Garden Party, open to all with music provided by the Mareham Le Fen Silver Band, will be held at Toad Hall Candlesby on Sunday, 21 July at 2pm.



with Holbeach Town Band
7.00pm for 7.30pm start
Holbeach St Marks Village Hall

In Aid of The Royal British Legion Holbeach St Marks Branch

Admission £5 incl buffet
Contact: Janette 01775 760252
Alan 01406 701704
Bar available

Summer Draw at 10.00pm



Technology – Moving into the 21st Century

Spilsby & District Branch recently sought a Community Grant from the Lincolnshire Co-op to purchase a Branch laptop computer and printer. Thanks to the Lincs Co-op for their generous donation of £575, and to the Legion's web master Robyn Goodwin for all her help and patience, Spilsby and District now have our own website which they hope will make them more accessible to everyone - www.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/spilsby

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Armed Forces Day National Event, Nottingham

The Royal British Legion is keen to encourage as many Standard Bearers as possible from other counties to attend the National Event for this year's Armed Forces Day. This will take place on Saturday, 29 June in Nottingham. The events will include

City Centre (approx.10.30am-12pm), FREE:

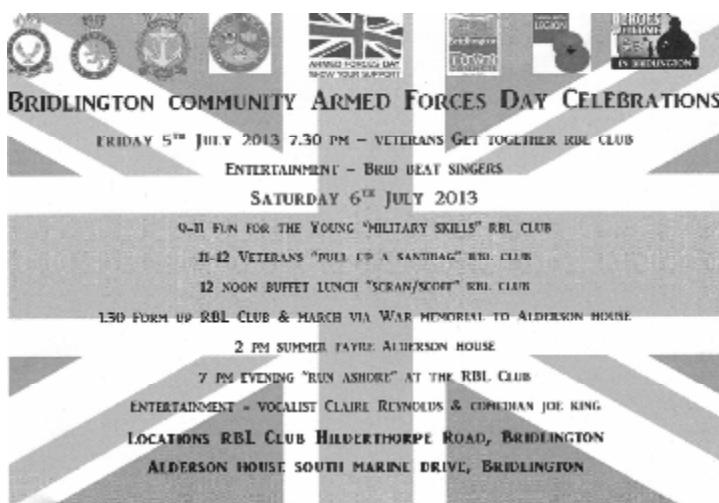
- 100 Regt Royal Artillery firing 105mm Light Guns
- Parade of Royal Navy, Army and RAF marching troops and bands
- Drumhead Service
- Red Arrows and Typhoon flypasts

Victoria Embankment (10am-6pm), FREE entry*:

- *car parking charges apply at Victoria Embankment
- Army, Royal Navy, RAF and Defence past and present vehicles, weaponry and equipment
 - Exciting displays throughout the day
 - Flypasts
 - Live entertainment
 - Veterans Marquee

Standard Bearers will have to complete a booking form – available on line from the County Secretary - and return it to susie.dewey@gmail.com should they wish to take part. More information on the event can be found at <http://www.mynottingham.gov.uk/armedforcesday>

Alderson House celebrate Armed Forces Day



Counties and Branches in the regions south of the Humber, and for members to attend and support Alderson House in this momentous event.

Alderson House will be taking part in an event which takes place on 5 & 6 July in conjunction with Bridlington's Armed Forces Day Celebrations. The event starts in the RBL Club Bridlington at 7.30pm, 5 July with a Veterans' Get together and continues in the Club at 9am, 6 July with *Fun for the Young* 'Military Skills, Veterans Pull Up a Sandbag, and a *Buffet Lunch 'Scran/Scoff'*. There is then a *March* at 1.30pm from the Club to Alderson House for a *Summer Fayre*, before a *Run Ashore* at the RBL Club again at 7.00pm. The Club is located on Hilderthorpe Road, Bridlington, and Alderson House faces the sea on South Marine Drive.

We are asked to encourage as many Standard Bearers as possible to attend to represent the

Buxton Military Tattoo

Buxton will host its 4th Military Tattoo at the Dome in Buxton on Saturday, 6 July. Performances will take place at 2.00 and 6.30pm and will feature:

- The Band of The Corps of Royal Engineers
- The Waterloo Band and Bugles of The Rifles
- The Drums and Pipes of 1st Battalion The Irish Guards
- The Band of 150th (Yorkshire) Transport Regiment
- 2517 (Buxton) Squadron RAF Air Cadets
- Derbyshire Army Cadet Force Band
- Private Derby XXIX
- Massed Bands Finale
- The Lone Piper
- 'Sunset' Ceremony (evening performance only)
- Alasdair Hutton - the renowned voice of The Edinburgh Tattoo.

Doors open 2.00 to 4.00pm and 5.00pm respectively.

Tickets cost £16.50 (£11.50 under 16s) and £20.50 (£15.00 under 16s) for the respective performances, but the organisers are offering us a discount for parties of 20 or over. This discount is available by booking only through:

Chris Thornton, Event Manager
Buxton Military Tattoo
PO Box 132, Buxton, SK17 1AJ

Tel: 01298 25568
Mob: 0753 1166 046
E-mail: csthornton@buxontattoo.org.uk



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Gift Aid

The Legion benefits from the generosity of our supporters, both within and outside Remembrancetide, and we also receive a number of donations throughout the year. Many donations to Branches, Counties/Districts and Poppy Appeal Organisers are accompanied by Gift Aid Declarations. In theory we can re-claim the Gift Aid on these donations at 25%, which means we can generate additional revenues just by having a donation ‘gift-aided’.

Branches and Counties/Districts are also keen to apply Gift Aid to donations they receive. There is however a lot of confusion about this and when formations do not follow the correct procedures, we are unable to make any claims. The Legion can only claim Gift Aid on donations from supporters if a number of principles have been followed. Full guidance on the subject is being developed and will be included in the next issue of the Management Handbook.

Membership Training

Membership training has been moved, as part of *Pathway for Growth* from HR to the Membership Department. The department consists of a Manager, ½ of a Training Administrator, and two Training Officers with the support of County and District Training Officers. Branches should direct any queries on members’ training and development needs to our CTO, Sam Ezekiel on 01522 885716 or sezekiel@ntilworld.com.

Counties and Districts are being encouraged to bid for courses which they believe could be filled locally, rather than basing everything in Haig House. Lincolnshire does not have courses planned at present but there are 2 Branch Management, 2 Branch Treasurers and 1 County management Courses tentatively planned to be held centrally for the end of 2013/into 2014.

Military Membership

Serving military personnel qualify for free Military Membership of the Legion. They can sign up via the Legion website and receive digital updates, get a digital copy of the *Legion* magazine, and take advantage of the same membership offers from, eg the Poppy Shop. Military Members do not have governance rights and if they wish to get involved locally they should join a Branch. The Legion is exploring how Military Members might be allowed access to Legion Clubs.

Volunteering

As a result of *Pathway for Growth*, there will be a number of new volunteering roles. Profiles for these roles have been drafted and recruitment into these roles will be skills based. A new Volunteer Support Unit has been set up in the HR Directorate to provide the relevant policies, procedures and training and management support.

Suppliers of Berets/Gauntlets

We understand that Poppyshop are discontinuing the sale of Berets and Gauntlets. Some sizes are already out of stock and the remainder will be discontinued as the various sizes are exhausted. Possible alternative suppliers are:

Porters, Tel: 0151 7095155.

Royal Standard House,
334 New Chester Road,
Birkenhead, CH42 1LE

Pathway for Growth

Did you know that you can access information on Pathway to Growth by going to the link - <http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/pathway-for-growth-information>. It takes you to a new page on the intranet.

New benefit introduced - Armed Forces Independence Payment

On April 8, 2013 the Ministry of Defence (MOD), in conjunction with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), will introduce a new benefit called the Armed Forces Independence Payment (AFIP). AFIP is a simplification of the financial support available for members of the Armed Forces who have been seriously injured as a result of military service since 6 April 2005.

AFIP will provide eligible recipients with ongoing payments to help with the additional costs associated with their injuries. Claimants who choose to claim AFIP will not be eligible for Personal Independence Payment (PIP), Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or Attendance Allowance (AA). Service personnel and veterans who are entitled to a Guaranteed Income Payment (GIP) of 50 per cent or higher through the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme will be eligible for the payments.

AFIP payments will be £134.40 per week, the same amount as the enhanced rates of both the daily living and mobility components of PIP or the highest rate of both components of DLA. It is non-taxable and will not be means-tested against any other benefits. Those eligible for AFIP will keep the payment for as long as they are entitled to receive a GIP of 50 per cent or higher and eligible claimants will not be required to undergo any initial assessment or further reassessment in the future.

Further information on the payment is available at www.veterans-uk.info or by contacting 0800 169 2277.

Poppy Running Club

Bob Gamble (Assistant Director of Membership at Haig House) has allowed himself to become committed to a run on 9 June across a part of the Lake District in support of the Royal British Legion. There are plenty of others participating but, as he says, few less well prepared than him.

He is hoping that some of us could contribute something on the Virgin Just Giving page below by way of sponsorship. The challenge is only 12kms, but the route is sufficiently tough that, he says, for a man in his condition it might all be too much. He urges that we do not spend the rest of our lives regretting that we denied this gesture of human warmth so close to the end; who knows, if he does not come back off the hill we may not even need to pay.

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-web/fundraiser/showFundraiserProfilePage.action?userUrl=PoppyRunningClub>

COUNTY CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2013

DATE	EVENT	VENUE
1/2 June	Deeping Show	Deeping
10 June	County Management Board Meeting	Wellingore
23 June	Standard Bearers School	Crowland
29 June	Armed Forces Day	Countrywide
6/7 July	Waddington International Air Show	RAF Waddington
13 July	County Welfare Committee Meeting	Wellingore
13 July	County Committee Meeting	Wellingore
14 July	Spilsby Show	Spilsby
27/28 July	Heckington Show	Heckington
19 Aug	County Management Board Meeting	Wellingore
21/22 September	County Chairman's Seminar	Staverton
22 September	Standard Bearers School – AGM	Louth
28 September	Branch Chairmen/Secretaries' Seminar	Donington & Quadring
29 September	County Standard Bearer Competition	Horncastle
5 October	County Welfare Committee Meeting	Wellingore
5 October	County Committee Meeting	Wellingore
6 October	Service in the Field	Sibsey
13 October	Presidents' Fund Raising Lunch	Woodhall Spa
26 October	Poppy Appeal Launch	East Kirkby
3 November	Festival of Remembrance	Cranwell
8 November	Poppy Golf	Woodall Spa
9 November	Festival of Remembrance	Royal Albert Hall
10 November	Remembrance Sunday	Countrywide
11 November	Armistice Day	Countrywide
7 December	County Committee Meeting	Wellingore
11 January 2014	Annual Meeting of County Conference	Horncastle

NB: This calendar of events is subject to amendment depending upon National events etc.
Calendar

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Mr Jimmy Dyson, Sleaford & District	Mr Harry Hyam, Long Sutton
Mr F S Hales, City of Lincoln	Mr Charlie Cumberworth, Sutton Bridge
Mr Jeffrey Hill, Skegness	Mr David Ashley, Lincolnshire Central
Mrs Jennie Spencer, Stamford	Mr Graham Chappell, Long Sutton
Mr Bernard Downes, Stamford	Mr W R Turner, City of Lincoln
Mr C Marchant, City of Lincoln	Mr F King, City of Lincoln
Mr K Sharp, Horncastle & District	Mr John Taylor, Grantham
Mrs V M Shucksmith, Immingham	Mr Alan Cudlipp, Long Sutton
Mr Ronald Hodges, Spilsby & District	Mrs D E Greaves, Gainsborough & District
Mr L J Butterly, City of Lincoln	Mr E F Beck Holbeach Branch
Miss Stella Willing MBE, County Vice-President & Great Grimsby Branch	

The Royal British Legion nationally granted Freedom of Richmond

Richmond in North Yorkshire is only four miles from Catterick Garrison and has developed a close fraternity with soldiers from many Regiments and Corps.

Many RBL members will remember their time in Catterick and the town of Richmond. For most they will be happy memories but for some, who did their basic training in the Garrison, such memories may be mixed. Many service personnel however settled in Richmond at the end of their service, and the Town Council realise how much the Royal British Legion does for our ex-service and serving Army, Air Force and Navy personnel.

The Legion comes to the fore every year with the Poppy Appeal and Remembrance Sunday, but Richmond Town Council felt there should be a greater recognition of an organisation that works so hard for the Armed Forces. Last year they therefore voted to grant the Freedom of the Town of Richmond to the national Royal British Legion, an honour granted only to five service units, HMS Richmond, the Royal Corps of Signals, the Royal Military Police, the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, the Royal Air Force Regiment and a very few individuals. It was not until the Council contacted the Legion to offer the Freedom that they discovered that they are the first Town or City in the UK to do so.

The RBL have agreed to accept the Freedom and the ceremony, followed by a parade of Standards and members, will take place in Richmond on Friday, 19 July 2013, at 4 pm. Richmond Council and the RBL would like to convey an invitation to all RBL members, especially Standard bearers, to join them on that day to make it a very special occasion for the Royal British Legion and for the Town of Richmond.

A formal ceremony will take place in the Town Hall at 4 pm. where the RBL National Chairman will accept a scroll of Freedom from the Mayor of Richmond. The size of the Town Hall means that spectator numbers must be limited. However the ceremony will be followed by a parade of Standards and members into the Town Market Place, where the scroll will be symbolically passed to the President of the Richmond Branch for safe keeping. By coincidence the Mayor at that time is also the RBL Branch Chairman.

We hope that RBL members will make 19 July a really special day to remember. Briefing for Standard Bearers will be at the Richmond Green Howards' Museum in the Town Market Square at 3.00pm. Will Branches who wish to take part please notify Mr Colin Northridge MBE, North & East Yorkshire County Chairman, on cnorthridge@britishlegion.org.uk or at Ground Floor, Unit 4, Triune Court, Monks Cross Drive, Huntington, York, YO32 9GZ by Friday, 12 July, how many of their members and if their Standard Bearer will be present. Town parking fees will be waived for the day.

Electrical Organ on offer



The electrical organ pictured here is looking for a good home. It is a General Music *Topaz* and has two 44 note keyboards and a 13 note pedalboard. It can reproduce every instrument of the orchestra and plays a whole range of rhythms. Its dimensions are 44½" (L) x 34½"(H) x 19"(W).

If you know of someone or group who would like this instrument, please contact Steve Bonde, Stamford Branch, on 01780 757041 or srbonde@hotmail.com.

Distribution of *LegionLincs*

LegionLincs is mainly aimed at our Lincolnshire Branches so that we can each take inspiration perhaps from others' various activities and initiatives. But we circulate it also widely elsewhere in the County and outside.

Upto last year we printed and posted several copies of *LegionLincs* to all our Branches. But the big increase in postage charges in 2012 meant that we could no longer afford or justify the cost of printing and postage. We went over to electronic publication. I understand however that some Branches are having difficulty printing enough copies for their own members and the Chairman has floated the idea, in his *Foreword*, of Branches contributing to the cost of printing and posting, as before. As a rough guide, three copies like this edition would cost about £2.50 each to print, plus probable postage of £1.10.

I would like to tailor *LegionLincs* to Branches' wishes if you would let me know what interests you, and what does not – eg Branch activities, County events, events elsewhere, personal stories, local and/or national administration, non-Legion items. Please let me know.

It is good that nine Branches have contributed to this edition, a big improvement. Do keep it up, especially during the busy summer period. The next edition of *LegionLincs* will issue at the end of July. Could every Branch please try to send me something, however little, on their activities during this period - by about 15/16 July.

Steve Bonde
Editor, **LEGION LINCS**

Lincolnshire – A Winning Team