



# The Royal British Legion Nottinghamshire County

June - July 2013

Shoulder to Shoulder with all who serve



(PLEASE ENSURE THIS NEWSLETTER IS PASSED  
ROUND THE MEMBERS)

## “We will remember them”

Mr David **Rickett** - Southwell  
 Miss Stella **Scantlebury** - Ollerton & District  
 Mr Bernard **Shelton** - Clipstone & Forest Branch  
 Mr Russell **Curtis** - Colston Bassett, Owthorpe  
 & Cotgrave  
 Mr **Frederick** Shaw - West Bridgeford  
 Mr Roland **Clarke** - Papplewick and Linby  
 Mr DHE **Rope** - Papplewick and Linby  
 Mrs Sarah M **Belfield** - Woollaton

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

1. **Freedom of Richmond, 19<sup>th</sup> July.**
2. **Family Poppy Party, Newark Castle, 21st July.**
3. **Thankful Villages Run 2013, 1<sup>st</sup> August.**
4. **Battle Of Kohima Memorial Service, 68th Anniversary, 1<sup>st</sup> August**
5. **RAFA Annual Band Concert, Trent College, 29<sup>th</sup> August.**

### National Armed Forces Day - 29 Jun 13

I think all those who attended will agree with me that Nottinghamshire really did the country proud despite the fact that the responsibility for the organisation was taken away from the county as we were selected to hold the national event.

Message from Andy Gregory, Nottinghamshire County Chairman:

**“I was extremely honoured to be one of the representative veterans (RAF) to raise the Armed Forces Flag at Wollaton Hall.**

**I was extremely disappointed however, that RBL weren't better represented during the week and on Armed Forces Day itself. This was not for want of trying and Elaine Hopkins deserves an award for anger management having been bounced from pillar to post on the lead up.**

**We had been told that places were limited and so it proved. We were informed that this was about showing support for our Armed Forces which is something we have done for over 90 years. Nonetheless, our Armed Forces were recognised for what they are - the best of the best and our support for them will never waiver.**

**I'm told that the organising reins are handed back to the regular committee for 2014. I hope that we can commemorate the start of the Great War as well as recognise the importance of our present day and future forces.”**

### Family Poppy Party, Newark Castle

Held in the grounds of Newark Castle, there will be stalls run by Branches from Newark and the surrounding area. It should be a great day.

### Freedom of Richmond

On Friday 19th July 2013 there is a ceremony to confer the Freedom of the Town of Richmond, North Yorkshire on The Royal British Legion. This unique honour (never happened on a national level before) is being bestowed on the RBL in recognition of all the help it has given and continues to give to the serving and ex-service community. Standard bearers and parading members are required to be at Green Howards Museum in Richmond Market Place by 1500hrs on the day. Remember, if you are taking your branch standard out of the county of Nottinghamshire you must seek permission from County.

### Battle of Kohima Memorial Service

Ollerton & District Branch have organised memorial service to commemorate the 68th anniversary of the battle of Kohima on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2013.

The service will be held in the War Memorial Gardens in Ollerton Village on the 1st August after the 7.15pm parade. All Standard Bearers and Branch

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Members are invited to take part in this special day. For more details contact John Mann, Secretary of the Ollerton Branch on 01623825744 or Mobile 07849190568.

### Lyons Coffee Plan to Raise £100k for the Legion

British coffee brand Lyons is supporting the Legion with a donation per coffee pack sold and other fundraising activities, aiming to raise over £100,000 for our Armed Forces Community. For each pack of coffee bags sold a donation is made to the Legion.



Community Fundraisers across the Legion have been sent free packs (allegedly) for their staff and volunteers to try – so, it's all round to Christine's for a coffee then?

### RAFA 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert

Erewash Branch of **The Royal Air Forces Association** is celebrating **70 years, 1943-2013**. There will be a band concert by the **Central Band of the Royal Air Force** at the **May Hall, Trent College Long Eaton on Thursday 29 August 2013** commencing at **7.30pm**.

Tickets are £12 each and are available from Phil Giles, Vice-Chairman Erewash Branch RAFA. Cheques should be made payable to **Erewash RAFA** and sent to:  
21 Huntingdon Drive, Castle Donington, Derby, DE74 2SR, adding **50p** for postage.

### Story to Tell?

Local poet, author and RBL member Steve Hill is compiling a series of service recollections to be put into print and published and is looking for contributors (to be fully credited) from anyone who has served in any conflict/time period. It doesn't have to be a "war" story;

he's looking for anything humorous, historic or simply interesting. If you have something to offer contact Steve on 01623 651280. Alternatively you can send me an e-mail and I will forward it.

**Or** I can print it in the newsletter. Don't be shy – get in touch.

**e.g.** shortly after the Argentine surrender in the South Atlantic, 1982, a young sailor was being interviewed by a newspaper journalist on the ship's return to Portsmouth. The young sailor regaled the newsman with a tale or two and the reporter said "You must have made that trip with trepidation".

The confused looking sailor replied "No. We were with **Alacrity** and **Arrow**".

During the Falklands War HMS *Arrow* had the dual distinction of being both the first British warship to fire on the enemy (firing on land forces at Port Stanley), and the first British warship to be hit by enemy fire, it was strafed by an Argentine Air Force fighter. On 4 May 1982 she assisted in extinguishing the fires and evacuating the crew of HMS *Sheffield*, which had been struck by an Exocet missile. The crew showed conspicuous bravery in this rescue effort, saving 225 of *Sheffield*'s crew. *Arrow*'s captain, Commander Paul Bootherstone was subsequently awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for gallantry during the action. *Arrow* also helped extinguish the fires on the frigate HMS *Plymouth*, on 8 June 1982. On 11 May *Alacrity* and *Arrow* were leaving Falkland Sound after a mine reconnaissance mission when the Argentine submarine *San Luis* fired two torpedoes at the ships. Both missed, and the ships rejoined the task force.

### Welfare

#### Do your family know?

I have once again recently had the situation of a loved one wanting Legion representation and standard at a funeral where we weren't made aware of it until the eleventh hour. **So...**

Do your family know you are a member of the RBL and which branch? Do they know who to contact if you go into hospital or you have to march on to that final parade?

**Please** let a family member or friend know to contact your branch if anything happens to you so that we can at least arrange a hospital visit, etc.

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**Welfare** (continued)

**Making sure your home is safe..?**

The Royal British Legions Handy van service, Poppy Calls, now undertakes a series of **FREE** home checks for members of the armed forces and ex-services community, and their close families. The checks cover physical security (checking locks to windows and doors), fire safety (checking for carbon monoxide and smoke detectors) and winter warmth (checking for levels of insulation). If any work is required as a result of these home checks, then they are free to those on a Means Tested Benefit, or those aged 75 or over.

Russell Rolph, National Poppy Calls Manager says:

“Over nine million people in the UK can call on the Legion’s support. Some of these people can find it difficult to keep up home maintenance over time or find they need adaptations following injury or illness to maintain the lifestyle they once did in their own homes, and that’s when Poppy Calls steps in. The household checks are a free service, and are another way in which Poppy Calls can assist. I would encourage the ex serving community to take advantage of these free home checks”.

In 2012, Legion Fitters assisted over 5,000 people across the country.

To find out more about the service, or if you wish to book your free household checks call 0800 032 0306 with the following information:

- Name
- Address
- Postcode
- Telephone Number
- E mail Address

Send to: Janet Impey, 7 Avro House, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE29 6XS.

**Outside the County**

**Search for future Forces stars**

The Legion and Decca Records today launch a nationwide search for the stars of the future – among the families of Britain's armed forces. Online auditions are beginning now to find a military kids super-group, set to become the chart-topping voice of this year's Poppy Appeal, the last before British Forces begin their pull out of Afghanistan. First auditions will be via YouTube and contestants should visit [www.poppyappealsingle2013.co.uk](http://www.poppyappealsingle2013.co.uk) for information on how to apply. The performances that catch the eye of the judges will be invited to a second audition in London. Winners of the competition – open to all 9 -16 year olds with a brother, sister or parent currently serving in the Forces – will be given the chance to perform in front of HM The Queen and a television audience of over six million people at this year's Festival of Remembrance. In addition the new group will record a single which will be this year’s official Poppy Appeal anthem.

Tom Lewis, Director of A&R, Decca Records and part of the team that successfully delivered a Christmas No.1 for the Military Wives Choir in 2011 said: “Opportunities like this are rare and I would encourage anyone that fits the eligibility criteria and thinks they can sing, to give it a shot. Your recording doesn’t have to be broadcast quality; anyone with a video camera or smart-phone can upload their audition to YouTube. We are looking for raw and unique talent. Playing in front of Royalty is very special. Few artists ever have the opportunity to play for The Queen and such a huge television audience. This really is a once in a lifetime opportunity.”

Nottinghamshire members are encouraged to pass the word around – there’s got to be a star in the making somewhere in Nottinghamshire!

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**Thankful Villages**

**Background.** In 2011 members of the Aberystwyth & District Motorcycle Action Group organised a sponsored ride to visit the 3 "Thankful Villages" in Wales. These are villages where all of those who went away to fight in the Great War were fortunate enough to return home alive. Many had been scarred physically and/or mentally by their horrific ordeal. We are proud to say that our ride raised £2,500 for the "Help for Heroes" charity. The story of the Thankful Villages seems to strike a chord with everyone – a celebration of joy for a few fortunate communities during a time of so much horror. We are asking nothing of any of the places that we will visit. For an incredibly well researched history of the Thankful Villages, just go to <http://www.hellfirecorner.co.uk/thankful.htm>

**Thankful Villages Run 2013.** This summer Medwyn Parry and Dougie Bancroft will be riding Triumph motorbikes to all of the 51 "Thankful Villages" in the United Kingdom. These are villages with no traditional war memorial because all who went off to fight in the Great War were lucky enough to return home. Many had been scarred physically and/or mentally by their horrific ordeal – 14 of these are "Double Thankful", where they also returned from the Second World War.

The journey will start at Llanfihangel y Creuddyn, near Aberystwyth, at 8:00am on Saturday the 27th of July, and some 2,500 miles and 9 days later it will finish at the same point, at about 6:00pm on Sunday the 4th of August. As far as we know, nobody has visited all 51 in one journey. The ride will raise funds for the Royal British Legion - the target is £51,000.

Those who live in the Thankful Villages are tremendously proud of their status. Medwyn and Dougie would be very pleased to meet with residents – especially descendants of those who survived the conflict - and of course members of the Royal British Legion.

Any riders who may want to join in for any part of the trip would be most welcome, but would be expected to make a minimum donation of £5.00 per bike per day. Any overnight stops MUST be arranged by, and are the responsibility of, the individual riders.

If you would like to join in the ride, help out, or want to know more about the project, please get in touch

[thankfulvillagesrun@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:thankfulvillagesrun@hotmail.co.uk), [medparry@btinternet.com](mailto:medparry@btinternet.com) or 07773 718044, [dougieb@dougieb.info](mailto:dougieb@dougieb.info) or 07538079137.

On Thursday 1 August the riders will be in Nottinghamshire visiting the following villages:

- Wysall**, Nottinghamshire
- Maplebeck**, Nottinghamshire
- Cromwell**, Nottinghamshire
- Wigsley**, Nottinghamshire

Arrive 11:15. Depart 12:00. Head South-East to the A616 to South Muskham, turn left on to the B6325 for about a mile, then join the A1 heading North and exit at the next junction to:

If you are in the area of any of these villages why not turn out to give the Riders your support.

**Ride of Respect raises £33k for the Legion**

Two thousand motorcycle riders honored the memory of fallen Service people and raised money for the Legion on Sunday 16 June, in the fourth annual Ride of Respect.

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Over 3,000 enthusiastic bikers, many with pillion passengers, congregated at Dalton Barracks in Oxfordshire in order to take the Ride of Respect to Caterton and Brize Norton, culminating in a slow ride past the Memorial Garden.

Thousands of people lined the route to cheer them on, as bikes in all colours, and all shapes and sizes, went through the Oxfordshire countryside – with the rain holding off until just after the last bike went through.

It was a particular relief to the gentleman riding his bike dressed as Tigger, who would have been very uncomfortable if wet! The Legion's Riders Branch was on hand to help things run smoothly. Bucket collections on the day brought in around £6,700, and the overall event has raised over £33k for the Legion.



**Thought for the Day**

There's no limit to what can be achieved; if you don't mind who takes the credit – **Mark Twain**

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