



LEGION LINCS

www.britishlegion.org.uk/counties/lincolnshire



Newsletter of THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION Lincolnshire County

January/February 2014

Edition 1/2014

Farewell and Welcome to the County President

Brig. Reeves has been our County President for the past nine years as well as President of the RBL City of Lincoln Branch. Other service charities have also taken much of his time as President of the Lincolnshire Ex-Services Association and, until 2007, as Chairman of the Army Benevolent Fund for Lincolnshire.

Brig. Reeves qualified as a graduate teacher in 1957, and was then called up for National Service; he spent the next thirty five years in the Royal Army Educational Corps, retiring in 1992 in the rank of Brigadier. During his service, he spent nine years in West Germany, two in Fontainebleau, France, two in Gibraltar and the remainder of the time in Southern England. He had ten years working with Junior Soldiers (15 to 18 year olds) in two Junior Leaders Units and an Army Apprentices College. In addition he held a variety of Staff appointments in the Ministry of Defence and in major Headquarters in England and Germany. His final appointment from 1990 to 1992, was as Commandant of the College of Military Education & Training Support and as Inspector of Army Education & Training Methods.



The President' last address to Conference

Sadly, health problems have forced him now to step down as our County President. At our County Conference on 11 January, Tony Goodwin, paid handsome tribute to him for all his valuable the work, support and advice which he has given to the County and, to a standing ovation from the Conference, wished him and his wife, Margaret, all success and health in the coming years.



Brig Reeves receives a standing ovation

As his final act in office, Brig Reeves presented the County and County Youth Standards to the Standard Bearers, charging them to handle them with care and respect. He then welcomed his successor, Wg Cdr Simon

Erskrine Crum OBE to whom he then presented

his chain of office. Simon is well known to the County having worked some years ago as the County Fund Raiser. He served in the RAF, flying the Vulcan and F104; his father served in the Army and his son in the Royal Navy; he can then, he says, support all three services. He hoped to live up to the honour which has been given to him and promised, at least to start with, to keep quiet except when to ask questions.



Handing over the baton



Presenting the County Standards



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

Thank you to everyone who gave up their Saturday to support the County at our Annual Conference. Our Branches were well represented with 32 voting delegates and a good number of visitors. The Lord Lieutenant, the Mayor of Horncastle, who was brave enough to come for a second year, and Mrs Doreen Stephenson Leader of East Lindsey District Council also gave us their welcome support.

Despite the traumas and upheavals of our Legion year it was obvious that Lincolnshire County is alive and well. Our Branches have survived by doing what they do well, that is to not worry about the changes going on around them but to carry on as normal. We will have more changes to cope with in the year ahead but the County Committee will endeavour to try and make them as easy as possible to deal with. The elections gave us two new members for the County Committee which can only be good for us. They both joined in at our first meeting and came up with suggestions and ideas for moving forward. Exactly what we need.

Returning to the Conference the Presentation on the Bomber Command Memorial given by our Patron Tony Worth was outstanding and enjoyed by everyone. I have heard nothing but praise and requests for him to be our Speaker next year.

The motions debated definitely reflected the feelings of our membership and both received a unanimous vote of approval. I would encourage as many Branches as possible to send a Delegate to the National Conference then you can have your say there as well. All Branches are reminded that if they do not have a delegate from amongst their own members then it is in order to appoint a Delegate from outside of their Branch providing of course the individual is a fully paid up member of the Legion. Also Branches are reminded that application has to be made to Head Office from this year and not to the County Secretary as in past years.

Plans are going ahead to obtain the keys for the new office in Lincoln next week. Brian Mahoney has been tasked with arranging all the works necessary to make it habitable. My information is that there will be little signage to indicate that it is a Royal British Legion office and we cannot call it County Headquarters. However the important thing is to get it open. At least then our Secretary will have somewhere to work from.

The year ahead promises a busy time for all and there will be many times when our traditional way of carrying out our business will be challenged by the modernisers. It is to be hoped that before too much change is made those proposing the change have taken the time to study what we have achieved already and ensure that the proposed change is actually an improvement. If they can do that then I know that we will all accept and support the change. If they fail to do so then it will not be supported.

The retirement of our President Brigadier Barry Reeves brought a sombre end to our Conference. It is always sad to see a good friend leave and Barry served us well, always having the interests of our members at heart.

On behalf of all Branches and members in Lincolnshire I offer a warm welcome to Wing Commander Simon Erskine Crum OBE who I know will bring new ideas and leadership to the County. He has started work already by contacting the President of every Branch in the County and I promise that there is more to come.

As County Chairman I do not have any control over the changes being put forward but I will try and make sure that they are beneficial to Lincolnshire. I can only promise that all of our Branches and members in Lincolnshire County will have my full support.

Tony Goodwin

Lincolnshire Bomber Command Memorial

Mr Tony Worth, the guest speaker at our annual County Conference this year is also a Trustee of the Lincolnshire Bomber Command Memorial Project. He rehearsed the county's close links with Bomber Command – 3491 of the aircraft lost and 46% of all aircrew who died flew from Lincolnshire, the names of 25611 aircrew killed are on the Roll of Honour in Lincoln Cathedral, Lincolnshire-based aircraft delivered 6680 tons of food to the Netherlands in Operation Manna, and brought home 72500 freed prisoners-of-war in Operation Exodus.

The 50m Memorial will be erected on Canwick Hill, facing Lincoln Cathedral. It will commemorate not only those who died but also survivors and support staff, the designers and builders of the aircraft and also those in Germany who died and suffered from the bombing campaign. A major feature will be the Chadwick Memorial Interpretation Centre, named after Roy Chadwick who designed the Lancaster bomber. This will tell the story of the people involved in the bombing campaign and be a tribute to all who served and to those who suffered. The Lord Lieutenant announced that an anonymous Lincolnshire-based donor has given £750,000 towards the £5million appeal. This brings the current total to £1.4m and it is hoped that the Memorial and the Centre will open in May or June 2015. More information is available on www.lincsbombercommand-memorial.com

County Annual Conference, 11 January 2014

The recent increase in turnout at our annual County Conference was maintained this year in Horncastle with 32 voting delegates and a host of 'VIPs', guests, and Branch members. We again had the pleasure of welcoming Tony Worth (our County Patron and the Lord Lieutenant), Cllr Doreen Stephenson (Leader of ELDC), Cllr Fiona Martin (Mayor of Horncastle), the President and Chairman of the RBL Lincolnshire Women's Section and, for the first time, the recently appointed East Midlands Area Manager, Ms Linda Flecknell. In her welcome, Cllr Martin said that Horncastle was again proud to host our annual Conference and thanked the Royal British Legion for all its help in the town and the county.



County President

The County President, Brig. Reeves, in his opening address, congratulated everyone for maintaining Lincolnshire as a 'beacon county' throughout his nine years as President. The County had always excelled. Recruitment continued to do well, against the national trend. Clubs and Branches were keeping going and links with young people were flourishing thanks to the hard work of Brian Marsden and his colleagues. The Poppy Appeal had again been successful, already reaching £713,000 against last year's total of £722,000. Lincoln had contributed over 10%, with strong support from Louth, Cleethorpes and Gainsborough. He paid tribute to John Hathaway and Jo Ticehurst.

He regretted however the effects of the implementation of *Pathway for Growth* in 2013 with the closure of the County office and redundancy of the most effective welfare team in the country, the delay in opening a new, much smaller office, the reduction of the office budget by 75%, the difficulties experienced by the County Secretary in working on a lap-top and a mobile telephone, and even travelling to Derby to print documents, the reduction of welfare spending to 6% of the previous year's total, and the reduction of welfare cases in East Midlands to fewer even than those Lincolnshire alone used to handle. He hoped that some benefit would eventually emerge from this venture.

County Chairman

The County Chairman, Tony Goodwin, summarised a Corporate Management presentation on the Legion in 2014. Legion assets now stood at £307 million, a higher profile was developing on the High Street with easier access to the Legion's services. A new national call number – 0808 8028080 – was now active and call volumes had doubled. The website had been redesigned and a 'webchat' page was now available. Welfare caseworkers were being given greater responsibility and could spend up to £250, but the new generation needed to be computer literate and committed. The Legion was closely involved with the commemoration of the Centenary of WWI – Haig House had applied for a HLF grant to supply poppy seeds to plant around the country, a Centenary Field Project aimed to remind Councils for the repair and upkeep of war memorials, discussions were ongoing with the CWGC on Project Headstone, and the Board of Trustees were considering support for over 100 other programmes. Branches were encouraged to apply for funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund which had £6 million to give. The Armed Forces were coming home from Afghanistan and need our support, just as they did in 1921. The Legion would be there, but a major priority however was the need to listen to the members' concerns. Will we use the Centenary years with vigour to pass the torch to the next generation?

In his County address, Tony Goodwin reiterated that the County was alive and well with excellent relations with the Women's Section, and successes with the youth, the Standard Bearers and the Poppy Appeal. The County Rededication Service at Saxilby had been very successful, even making a profit! The Poppy Appeal Launch at East Kirkby had been well supported and he paid tribute to the continuing support of the Panton family in hosting the event. The RAF Coningsby Military Wives Choir had been a big success and they wanted to support the event again in the future. The Cranwell Amateur Theatrical Society had again performed another feast of poetry and song at the County Festival of Remembrance and we were now discussing a possible affiliation with them.

The changes wrought by *Pathway for Growth* had however made 2013 the worst ever for the County's administration. It was now complete and like the Beeching reforms would need time to settle in. But many welfare caseworkers had decided not to continue, losing much valuable expertise, the Wellingore office had closed and nothing had been heard for weeks on the proposed new office in Lincoln. He paid huge tribute to Brain Mahoney, the County Secretary, without whose efforts there would have been no County administration.

Membership in the County remained stable with strong recruitment, thanks to the efforts of Bridget Wilcox and John Copeland and Stamford's mobile display unit. Membership was the lifeblood of the Legion and must not be pushed to one side. He also paid tribute to the support of his wife, Jan, and concluded by emphasising to need to continue to work together into the future. Lincolnshire is still a winning team.

Lincolnshire – A Winning Team

County Awards & Elections 2014



Courtesy Cup – John Hathaway
(Wellingore, Navenby & District)



Sheppard Cup – Mablethorpe Branch

The Sharman Cup for services to the County Standard Bearers was awarded to Mr D. Tinkler of Crowland Branch. Unfortunately I do not have photograph of his presentation.



County Certificate of Appreciation –
Richard Hewitt (Laceby & District)

The Lord Lieutenant and County President had the pleasure of presenting the County annual Cups and Certificates of Appreciation.

A County Certificate of Appreciation was also awarded to Michael Wragg of Gainsborough & District Branch; he was not however at Conference and his Certificate will be presented to him at a later date.



County Certificate of
Appreciation – Ian Graham
(Sleaford & District)



County Certificate of Appreciation –
George Turner (East Halton)



County Certificate of Appreciation – Roger
Green (Fleet & District)



County Standard Bearers' Cup -
Richard Kent Washingborough)



County Deputy Standard Bearers' Cup –
Gordon Hewitt (Spalding)



Brian Marsden Cup –
Nathan Merrill (Bourne ACF)

County Elections 2014

County Committee –

For 3 years – in alphabetical order:

Frank Byrne (Wrangle & District) **John Copeland** (Stamford), **Roger Green** (Holbeach) **Brian Marsden** (Stamford)

For 1 year – **John Johnson** (Alford)

County Conference Committee – in alphabetical order:

Tom Gundry (Kirton in Lindsey) **Grahan Wright** (Horncastle & District) **Richard Hewitt** (Laceby & District)

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

Conference Motions 2014

There were two Motions for debate at this year's County Conference, both proposed by Stamford Branch. The first was a simple re-run of last year's proposal that the Royal Charter be amended to enable national Annual Conference to have a voice in matters of administration and the governance of the Legion. That proposal had been passed with a majority of 86% at Llandudno but had been rejected by the Board of Trustees because, they said, *An attempt to define what matters of administration could be debated could be made but in the opinion of the Board this is fraught with difficulty*. There was no attempt to explain what such a *difficulty* might be and, when a senior member of the administration was invited at a meeting in November to explain, that person merely got angry. Meanwhile the membership continue to have no voice in the governance of the Legion, as demonstrated by the lack of communication during the imposition of *Pathway for Growth*. The re-presentation of this Motion was again carried unanimously, with several Branches speaking in support and no one against.

The second Motion asked that a report be circulated to Counties and Areas on the accumulative, detailed costs to date, and future projected costs, of implementing *Pathway for Growth*. This is a simple request for information, which is so far not readily available, on the cost of closing established premises and the opening of new, the paying off of experienced staff and the appointment and training of new inexperienced staff, and a myriad of other unnamed costs. There is also the question of where the money to meet these costs is coming from – the Poppy Appeal which should be spent on welfare, or from the General Fund which is already hard-pressed. This Motion too was carried unanimously, with no one speaking against. There is a strong possibility that this Motion will be suppressed by the Conference Committee on the grounds that it refers to administration. If so, such action will add emphasis for the need to change the Royal Charter as proposed in the first Motion.

East Midlands Area Manager

East Midlands has a new Area Manager, Ms Linda Flecknell, who was only two weeks into her appointment when she came to County Conference to introduce herself and meet us all. Before this appointment however she had already served as the Manager for S.E. Midlands for 11 years, joining the Legion in 2003 after 22 years in the RAF.

The welfare figures for Lincolnshire for the full year period 1 October 2012 to 30 September 2013 are as follows:

- Total spend: £569, 010
- Total contributions received: £250,765
- Total RBL NET spend: £318,245

The highest spend was on EPVs and Motability at £158,989 and the next highest was on Riser /Recliner Chairs and Electric Beds at £158,989 (*sic!*)

A new Area Volunteer Co-ordinator is busy contacting our Volunteers to establish what or which roles they wish to move to; it is hoped that many will stay with us. We needed our Volunteers and do in particular need a Volunteer Co-ordinator for the Lincolnshire Area. Volunteers will be essential to the smooth running of the Advice and Information Centre and also at secondary and outreach locations. A full list of all Legion volunteering roles will soon be available in a new introductory leaflet and on the Legion's website along with Executive summaries of all Area plans which have been produced. Briefly, some of the roles we expect to recruit are: Caseworker Volunteer, Information Volunteer, Visitor Volunteer, Community Support Volunteer, Ambassador Volunteer, Administration Support Volunteer, Fundraising Volunteers and Membership Volunteer Roles. A Pop-in Advice & Information Centre will open in Derby this year; she was chasing the delay in opening the new Lincoln office and would work closely to secure its success.

She announced that:

- welfare almonisation would be centred by a Central Grants Team direct from County Welfare Funds. She appealed for Branches to contribute to the County Welfare Fund;
- New versions of *About the Legion* and the *Publications Catalogue* have been issued;
- A new on-line information Knowledge Base was now available and will direct beneficiaries towards support services in their local area. Branches were invited to submit local information which usefully be added;
- We should all memorise the new national call number – 0808 8028080 .

She thanked all PAOs and their helpers and the recruiting teams, adding however the need to improve communication. Lincolnshire was quite strong but, with the increase in demand for our services, we would have to use the social media more to communicate with the young. For each person we reach, we miss many others. We need to raise awareness and especially strong links with the military. The WWI Centenary was an opportunity to strengthen our support base. We faced many challenges and need to work together, as one, collaborating side by side.



On 14 November **Spilsby & District Branch** were invited to attend a 'Lest we forget' concert put on by the pupils at the town's 'King Edward VI Academy. The money raised on the night for the Poppy Appeal amounted to £569.96. They later went to be presented with the cheque. The Branch President made a short speech of thanks on behalf of the branch.



Spilsby raised a record sum of £9351.02p for the 2013 Poppy Appeal. The collection at the Remembrance Service raised £400 for the Poppy Appeal. Not bad for a small town.

Spilsby Co-op Voucher Presentation

Spilsby Branch took part in their Co-Op Community Champions scheme resulting in a voucher to the sum of £359.00 for the very grateful Branch. In the photo 1 to r are Denis Chandler, Gill Rymer, John Adams, Dennis Blanchard, Don Odlin, Dennis Clarke and Branch President, Ron Worth receiving the voucher from store manager, Beverly.



Darren Busby

Wainfleet & District Branch are putting on another of their shows to raise funds for the Legion. For the third year the 'star' will be country singer, Darren Busby, who boasts 128 club awards! All this will take place in Wainfleet on Friday, 21 February, starting at 6.00 for 7.30pm. Tickets cost £6.00, available from Peter Nicholas on 01754 880040. Light refreshments will be available. All profits go to the Legion.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION
GRIMSBY BRANCH
80TH Anniversary Celebrations

1940's DANCE

An Evening of Music with the Band of
THE LINCOLNAIRES

Tickets Include:
A Sausage & Mash Supper
(Vegetarian option available, please book)

Tickets £10 per person

Friday 25th April 2014
7.30pm
(Doors open at 7.15pm)

At Grimsby Town Hall
TICKET PRICES: £10.00 per person (Includes Supper)
TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FROM:
The Poppy Appeal Organiser for Grimsby Area
Mrs Gail Davy Tel: 01472 347868

WEAR YOUR POPPY WITH PRIDE
All proceeds in aid of The Poppy Appeal

POPPY APPEAL

Author Ed Lane, a member of **Spilsby & District Branch**, presents a cheque for £120 to the Poppy Appeal. The money was raised from the sale of Ed's book, *The Lunatic Game*, a fictional account of an undercover operation in Northern Ireland during the peace process and is part of his 'Going Dark' series of military thrillers currently on sale through Amazon.



The cheque was accepted on behalf of the Legion by Branch Chairman, Dennis Clarke.

Poppy Appeal Party 2013



Watched by Mike Nelson, Terry Murphy and colleague of the Peterborough 5x5 Challenge present their giant (in all senses) cheque for £2100.

The guest of honour, Grp Capt Damien Alexander, Station Commander RAF Wittering, then presented Poppy Appeal certificates to the star collectors – those heroes and organisations which had each collected or contributed more than £100. Among the many recipients, some especially stand out – the Peterborough 5x5 Challenge Team (£2100), the ATC (£1257.07), the ACF (366.05), Keith Langley (£462.86) and Kevin Howard (£714.00), not to mention the collective efforts at the three supermarkets which raised £21005.33 between them. It was a particular pleasure to welcome representatives from Morrisons and Sainsburys to our celebration. Morrisons even contributed to our raffle which itself raised a further £145 for the Poppy Appeal.

What a crowd! **Stamford Branch** gave up counting after one hundred members and guests had crowded into Stamford ACF's Club Room on 27 November to celebrate their labours and the results of this year's Poppy Appeal. It was, literally, standing room only for the latecomers. And they had a success to celebrate. Mike Nelson, the PAO, announced that the Poppy Appeal had already exceeded £33,000, (*now £38495.13 and still counting*). He thanked everyone who had worked so hard for this success, especially the backroom workers who scurry around delivering and collecting Poppy boxes, counting the cash, and those who spend hours at the collection points and on the MDU. He led a general round of applause for all who helped.



A highlight of the evening was a magnificent carvery generously provided by Helen and Wendy, of the WOs & Sgts' Mess at St Georges Barracks. They not only prepared and cooked the carvery but also raised all the funds to pay for it.

Lincoln Women's Rotary Lunch



Congratulations to the Lincoln Women's Rotary who raised £201 for the Poppy Appeal last November.

A new PAO at Lincoln



It is a Happy New Year for **City of Lincoln Branch**. They now have a new PAO, Sqn Ldr Clare Law, and two 2 able assistant PAOs - Sue Creasey and Cpl Steve Riley. They have already beaten 2012's total. Well done to them all and everyone else who helped and contributed.

POPPY APPEAL

Bourne Poppy Appeal

Bourne Poppy Appeal this year was quite remarkable. First, they lost their PAO just three weeks before the campaign started. Imagine all the extra work that entailed, but the Chairman and Vice Chairman sorted it all out at great speed. Clangers were expected but good organisational skills reduced these to a minimum.

The main stay to the success of the collection was a meeting between the Branch Vice-Chairman and a very skilled journalist leading to a write-up in the local market place magazine. Bourne's main targets were the local supermarkets; these achieved excellent results with the help of a good band of volunteers, whether individuals or local scouts, Army cadets and the Royal Naval Association.

Despite their strange start, Bourne were able to pass their 2012 total even before Remembrance Sunday.

East Halton & District Branch had a successful Poppy Appeal; they have currently raised £1969.32, well up on 2012's £1735.82, thanks to the generous support of their local communities in East Halton and North and South Killingholme. They also held a prize bingo night in which 50 folk raised another £187 in aid of the Poppy Appeal.

Lincolnshire – A Winning Team

Louth

REMEMBRANCE Sunday in Louth last November echoed our Royal British Legion theme of *Shoulder to Shoulder with Those Who Serve*. Veterans and serving personnel joined town councillors, local cadet forces and Louth organizations for wreath laying at the War Memorial, Ramsgate, at 10.45am on Sunday, 10 November before moving off to march to St James's Church for Divine Worship at 11.15am.

Serving soldiers, airmen and all those at sea work on our behalf 365 days of the year, so it was fitting that their dedicated service to us all was not forgotten. Louth's *Knit and Natter Facebook* group, run by Julie and Richard Speed of Louth, had therefore been busy knitting hundreds of poppies, using wool donated by M & G Designs, with help from friends from as far away as Leeds, Lowestoft, Warwickshire, Kidderminster, Stockport, Northampton, Essex and even Pennsylvania and Brazil!

Louth Town Clerk Linda Blankley, who is also a member of the *Louth in Bloom* initiative, volunteered to make poppy strings and two giant poppies using 365 of the small knitted poppies which decorated the railings at the back of the memorial from Monday, 4 November.

The knitting will not stop there. The theme of flowers and butterflies from *In Bloom 2013* will merge into the *2014 In Bloom* campaign when poppies will feature in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War.



Spilsby



On Armistice Day they all gathered together with children from the local schools, in the town square to observe the Two Minute Silence signalled by a maroon and the Last Post and Reveille played by bugler Charlotte Robinson. The Parade Marshal, Denis Chandler, dismissed the parade and everyone went to the town cemetery where the children laid wreaths on the graves of the war dead. They were given a short explanation of their respective rolls during the conflict



This year's Remembrance Parade in Spilsby was one of the best ever for attendance. It was helped by the weather being kind to veterans. After the Service some members went to the Memorial at Spilsby's old airdrome site to lay a wreath there together with the town Mayor.

REMEMBRANCE

Barnack

On 10 November Barnack held their usual Remembrance Service in Barnack Church, followed by the wreath-laying ceremony at the War Memorial. The bright sunshine and blue skies brought out possibly the best turn-out yet (150+). The Guard of Honour and trumpeter (Rory Macras-McIlrae) were provided by the Stamford Endowed Schools CCF and Ted Murray was back in action as Standard Bearer.

The weather on the following day, Armistice Day, was not so good - cold, wet and windy - but nevertheless over 50 people took part in a short commemoration at the War Memorial. It is always good to see Barnack C of E School so well represented. In a slight break with tradition the whole of Laurence Binyon's evocative poem "For the Fallen" was read out, which seemed appropriate. Well done to the young (Y8) Stamford School trumpeter Jonathan Winfrey who, despite cold fingers and soggy music, produced an excellent rendition of the Last Post.

East Halton & District



East Halton & District Branch had a successful Poppy Appeal; they have currently raised £1969.32, well up on 2012's £1735.82, thanks to the generous support of their local communities in East Halton and North and South Killingholme. They also held a prize bingo night in which 50 folk raised another £187 in aid of the Poppy Appeal.

Here you see Branch members and other supporters at their Remembrance Service in St Peter's Church. The Rev. Barrie Leah again conducted the Service and Kim McGee read the lesson. Her brother Bloo McGee is the serviceman pictured above on leave. Rowan Booth and Simon Winfield carried the Standards.

REMEMBRANCE

Dronten Twinning

Readers will recall the item in this journal in Spring 2013 about the twinning of Dronten, in the Netherlands, with the County of Lincolnshire. The link is the large number of Lancaster and Halifax bombers, flying from Lincolnshire bases, which were shot down in the area of Dronten, and the deaths of so many aircrew. For many years members of the Air Gunners' Association have visited Dronten to play an honoured role in the town's liberation and Remembrance events on 4 May each year. But their numbers are dwindling and the citizens of Dronten are trying to preserve and develop their close links with our county through twinning arrangements and visits.

They are very keen therefore to invite especially Legion members from Lincolnshire to their May commemoration events. No formal twinning arrangement is necessary and a visit would not necessarily mean hosting a return visit from Dronten. The good people of Dronten wish merely to express their gratitude for their liberation and to remember those who died on their behalf. The contact to coordinate such visits is the Chairman of the Dronten Twinning Association, Mr John Polkinhorne, on 01778 561540.



Laying a wreath to RAF aircrews in May 2013 at the damaged Halifax propeller on the Dronten Memorial

Telling the children about Remembrance

Jim & Pauline Seymour, the **Pinchbeck Branch** Chairman and Secretary, recently gave a presentation about Remembrance and the Legion at their local junior school. The Branch has developed a good working relationship with the school and the pupils were all keen to learn.. Although the presentation turned out to last twice the allotted time both the Chairman and teachers agreed that it was well worthwhile and will look to do it again another year.



The children especially liked the practical demonstration on how the poppy wreaths are made and were keen to try and assemble one themselves.

For several years the Branch have also presented a cup for the best poem written by a pupil.

The standard improves every year and this year the award was given for a joint effort by Erin Slater and Thomas

In The Mist Of The Battle.

*Soldiers aim and duck and dive,
Remembering lost friends brings tears to their eyes,
Even then the soldiers knew,
That survivors would be few,
That was the mist of the battle.*

*Racing and rushing back and forth,
The medics tried saving the soldiers who fell,
Using up all of their short supplies,
They tried to make sure the soldiers didn't die,
That was the mist of the battle.*

*Stained red with blood,
The poppies stand,
After witnessing the body that lay on the ground
We respect all those who bravely died,
To give us today they sacrificed their lives,
That was the mist of the battle.*

Erin Slater and Thomas Lee.

WWI Centenary Commemoration Programme

Stamford Branch is working with Stamford Town Council to commemorate in Stamford the Centenary this year of the start of World War I (WWI). The broad aim will be to research the impact which WWI had, not just on those engaged in military activity, but also on Stamford itself – its community, the people, social groups, commerce etc, both during and after the War. They aim also to involve as many Stamford people and groups as possible in their activities over the next four years and to create a legacy which will inform future generations about Stamford during that turbulent period.



Stamford Town Cllr Max Sawyer, Town Mayor Cllr Brian Sumner, and Stamford Branch member Steve Bonde inspecting WWI artefacts, including German field glasses, medals and letters at the Town Hall. Photo courtesy of Stamford Town Hall.

Phase 1 of the project has received a grant of £10,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (see below) and will start with an event space from 12 July to 4 August featuring an exhibition of artefacts, photographs, and memorabilia to introduce the Commemoration Programme; it will also include workshops, performances and activities for schools and the local community. On 4 August, there will then be a launch event at the War Memorial, from 5.00pm to 11.00pm (the exact moment when Britain joined the War 100 years ago). The tone will be solemn and reflective on events to come and their effect upon Stamford and its community; it will not focus overly on the military aspects and not at all on pointing blame or who 'won'. They hope to involve children and young people as well as adults and to feature poetry readings, music, singing, and displays by local groups. This will be the start of a rolling programme of events over the following four years until the Centenary of the Armistice in 1918.

Spilsby & District Branch have begun moves to celebrate the anniversary of the Great War in Spilsby by the Heritage Lincoln at the Franklin Hall on 13/14 September. They hope that all Branch members will be involved and have appealed to members of the public to lend them any photos or memorabilia of the period.

The trustees of **Bourne United Charities**, which own and maintain the town Memorial Gardens, have decided to install near the War Memorial there ten stones commemorating those who fought in the Great War. The stones will feature etchings of the Regimental or Service crests in which the majority of them served. The charity is working with the Service associations and hopes to have the stones installed by the Spring.

Alford Manor House is looking for information, stories, photographs and artefacts relating to World War One and our local area at this time. All loans will help create a special community exhibition to mark the Centenary of the First World War, which will be based at Alford Manor House, running from 2014 — 2019



CWGC Partnership

Negotiations are continuing with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission regarding the development of a partnership agreement with the Legion for activities surrounding the upcoming 2014-18 period.



Supported by
The National Lottery[®]
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



The Autumn 2013 edition of LegionLincs set out, on page 2, details of the grants which the Heritage Lottery Fund, and other sources, have available to support projects to commemorate the Centenary of the Great War. The Heritage Lottery Fund has set aside £50 million for this purpose; their web address is: www.HLF.org.uk/firstworldwar. Your local commemoration programme can benefit from this Fund; Stamford have already received £10,000 for their Phase 1 Launch (*see above*).

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

Branch Christmas Dinner



A good time enjoyed by all

Stamford Branch had a new host this year for their Branch Christmas Dinner; they were the guests of SWO Barry Tanswell and his WOs' & Sgts' Mess at RAF Wittering, and they made them very welcome. The Bar was a dream – speedy, well-stocked, comfy and, above all, near half the price of bars in the real world!

Then they all sat down in a bright, cheery dining room to traditional Christmas fare, beautifully served up by really helpful, cheery 'volunteers' – presumably the 'you, you, and you' type, but they did not show it!

The Sergeant cook in particular deserves praise for producing with aplomb three coeliac vegetarian courses for a certain difficult daughter. Definitely *above and beyond* ...

After the meal, helped down by apparently unlimited quantities of wine and port, the raffle also featured an auction of three Christmas cakes baked and donated to the Branch by the chefs at St George's Barracks; in all they raised £161 which was given to the 'volunteers' in thanks for all their hard work. The SWO has already said that he hopes that the Branch will be his guests again next year.



How much am I bid? Catch!

Christmas at Bourne

Bourne & District Branch chose Monday, 9 December, and the Toft House Hotel near Bourne for their annual Christmas Lunch this year. 26 diners sat down at this excellent venue to a varied and high quality menu, served by highly trained staff. Not a complaint was received.

After the meal, the County Chairman's wife organised a *Guess the Year* raffle. This was very entertaining and several surprise dates were revealed. Finally the Branch members raised a collection of £26 for their hosts and staff. 26 people then set off home, all saying what a good time had been had by one and all. See you next year.

Alford Branch Social Events

Alford Branch have booked 8 Charity Market Stall days on the first Tuesday of each month from 8am, commencing Tuesday, 4 March, 2014, on Alford Market, LN13 9EB.

They also extend a cordial welcome to all Legion members to the following social events in the next two months:

Thursday, 6 March – a Charity Pub Quiz Night at the Anchor Inn, Alford, starting at 7:30pm. The cost of entry is £2.50 per person which includes the quiz and Nicki's fantastic buffet, a prize for the winning team and an additional game of bingo.

Wednesday, 12 March – The Annual Spring Lunch at the Anchor Inn, Alford, 12:30pm for sitting down at 1pm. The meal will be a Carvery Lunch with a choice of Turkey or Beef (Vegetarian option), followed by dessert with a choice of fruit crumble or trifle and rounded off with tea or coffee. The cost is £9.00 per head, including a non-refundable deposit of £5.00 per person at time of booking. There is a seating limit of 32 person.

Branch Christmas Tree



Stamford Branch again entered a Christmas tree in this year's *Christmas Tree & Crib Festival* in St John's Church, Stamford. The message this year was '1921 until today – Still Caring'. Our many thanks go to Colin Francis, yet again, for continuing this nice tradition and for decorating the tree so well.

New ways to reach beneficiaries

Haig House announced on 17 December the launch of a range of new facilities to reach out to Service personnel, veterans and their families and provide them with the advice and support they need at any stage of their lives. They include: - the new national Freephone number – 0808 8028080 – which is now available for use. This will allow people to call our Contact Centre at any time between 8am and 8pm, 7 days a week. Calls from landlines and from most mobile networks will be entirely free of charge;

- a new online information base, interactive assistance and webchat is now more easily accessible from the home page of the Legion's website.

- the first of 16 Pop-in Advice & Information Centres – in the centre of Liverpool – officially opened to the public from Wednesday 18 December.

The new Liverpool "Pop In" Centre is to be the media springboard from which the Legion will begin to share its positive news more actively with the public

Haig House have asked Branch Committees to spread the word about these developments within their local communities and the wider Armed Forces community to remind them that we are all here to support them.

Poppy Appeal 2012

Our closing total for the 2012 Appeal finished at £36,967,428.67; this was a great effort in a very difficult trading environment beating the projected £36m by almost one million pounds.

Major donors and trusts have exceeded their total net income target for 2012/13 by £110k. Fundraising from charitable trusts brought in £848k, Major donors £674k and £108k was received from Legion Branches for specific projects.

IE Training Course

There is an Independent Examiners Course being planned in Nottingham/ Derbyshire for the 8/9 March 2014, if any of your Treasurers are interested, the County Secretary has the appropriate application forms.

East Midlands Area Plan

All 16 Area Plan Executive Summaries, including that for the East Midlands, are now available publicly via the Legion's website <http://www.britishlegion.org.uk>. They may be found by simply typing 'Area plan' into the search site box in the top right hand corner of the Website .

Carers Connect Group Grants

Carers Connect support people who are caring for someone in Lincolnshire. . They cover the Lincolnshire County Council area, offering information and advice, emotional support, benefit checks, support groups and a discount scheme. They can also award a 'carer group grant' of up to £500 to help with the cost of setting up and sustaining a carer group. The grants can be used for venue hire, refreshments, group activities, meals out, trips to the cinema and bowling, and much more. If you know of a group which would benefit please give them a call on **01522 812830** or email them atemily@carersconnect.net for an application form.

Each district within the Lincolnshire County Council area has been asked to nominate a councillor as their Carer Champion. The Champions will act as points of contact within the district for all matters involving carers, the partnership and the training of staff and fellow councillors in the needs of carers.

The districts and Champions nominated so far are listed below.

East Lindsey District Council, Cllr. Phil Leivers

West Lindsey District Council, Cllr Mrs Gill Bardsley

Boston Borough Council, Cllr. Brenda Owen

North Kesteven District Council, Cllr. Mrs Susan Waring

Lincoln City Council, Not yet nominated

South Holland District Council, Not yet nominated

South Kesteven District Council, Not yet nominated

A Festive Thank You from the Membership Council

Martyn Tighe, Chairman of the Membership Council, has written in the December 2013 issue of the Membership Council Newsletter that 2013 was a particularly busy year and has thanked all who have been involved for their commitment and hard work in ensuring that Membership ran smoothly and efficiently.

Among the major projects completed was the training and rolling out of LOMAS (the Legion On-line Membership Accounting System) to all Counties. As a result, more Branches have been encouraged to move over to this new system, helping to simplify the work of Branch and County Treasurers.

A new Master Events List (MEL) has been developed to provide a more coordinated and centralised approach across the Legion and will soon be available on-line.

And, finally, we have a new Membership Handbook – successor to the old Management Handbook. This will be posted on a new dedicated, password-protected website so that it can be amended, as required, and be readily and securely accessible to Branches.. Visit the external web area at www.britishlegion.org.uk/membershiphandbook

New Branch Secretaries

Following Branches' AGMs, several new Branch Secretaries have taken up post:

Barrowby Branch

Mr Steve Carter Tel: 01476 591937
15 Mendip Close, Gonerby Hill Foot,
Grantham, NG31 8GB
Email: stevecarter57@bigfoot.com

Boston & District Branch

Mr George Reid (also Chairman) Tel: 07956 180222
The Limes, Holland Fen, Lincoln, LN4 4EZ
Email: george_rfc@yahoo.co.uk

Brigg & District Branch

Mr Paul Elsom Tel: 07954 785754
98 Enderby Road, Scunthorpe, DN17 2HQ
Email: paul.elsom@virginmedia.com

Caistor & District Branch

Mr Louis King,
7A Mill Lane, Caistor, LN7 6UA
Tel: 01472 851238

Coningsby & District Branch

Mrs Ann Wilkes Tel: 01526 342459
18 Railway Cottages, Langrick Road,
Coningsby Moorside, Boston, PE22 7SU
Email: awilkes65@yahoo.com

Epworth Branch

Mr Steve Croot Tel: 01427 872223
8 Rookery Croft, Epworth, Doncaster, DN9 1SJ
Email: steven.croot@btinternet.com

Great Grimsby Branch

Mr John Kitchen Tel: 07905 906415
76 Torrington Street, Grimsby, DN32 9QL
Email: 8linc7RA@live.co.uk

Healing & District Branch

Mr John Kitchen Tel: 07905 906415
76 Torrington Street, Grimsby, DN32 9QL
Email: 8linc7RA@live.co.uk

Surfleet Branch

Mr Des Curtis Tel: 01775 840945
Pennytoft, Windmill Lane,
Gosberton Riseagate, Spalding, PE11 4ES

Wellingore, Navenby & District Branch

Mr John Hathaway
Bredon House, 16 Chapel Lane, Tel: 01522 810145
Navenby, Lincoln, LN6 0JW
Email: jjhath@supanet.com

Welton & District Branch

Mrs Rosemary Moore Tel: 01673 860732
Lea Cottage, Main Street,
Hackthorn, Lincoln, LN2 3PF
Email: rosedonlea@btinternet.com

Winterton & District Branch

Mr Dennis Littler
14 West Street, Winterton, Scunthorpe, DN15 9QQ
Tel: 01724 732558
Email: dennislittler@btinternet.com

Who Do You Think You Are? Live offers discounted tickets

The eighth annual **Who Do You Think You Are? Live** history show, based on the tv programme, is offering Legion staff and members discounted tickets.

The show will be at the **London Olympia** on **20-22 February 2014**, when hundreds of genealogy experts dedicated experts in identifying photographs and military memorabilia will be on hand to help you uncover your ancestors.

There will also be a workshop programme dedicated to the commemoration of the centenary of World War I, a Keynote Workshop with Q & A session taking place every day and a brand-new Military History Area.

Heirloom detective Eric Knowles will be at the show on Friday 21 February and Saturday 22 February and Antiques Roadshow expert, Marc Allum, will be there on Thursday 20 February to look at your family heirloom and those very special artefacts that have been handed down the generations.

For more information, visit www.whodoyouthinkyouarelive.co.uk where you can sign up to their newsletter to receive the very latest show news.

Book on www.whodoyouthinkyouarelive.co.uk or by phoning 0844 873 7330 to obtain 2 tickets for just £26 by quoting RBL2426. A £2.25 transaction fee will apply. **Offer ends 14 February 2014.** Usual on door price is £22 each.

PUBLIC POLICY PANEL

The RBL Public Policy Panel need our help on the following:

Mesothelioma:

The Legion has been speaking to the MOD about veterans who served in Armed Forces trades (e.g. carpenter or Naval stoker) **in the 50s and 60s** who were exposed to asbestos and who are now suffering from Mesothelioma. The Minister is sympathetic to this issue and may set up a Working Group to look at MoD's responsibilities to these veterans.

Hearing Loss:

The Legion is also looking at how we can ensure veterans have access to better quality hearing aids once they leave the Service (same rationale as access to high standard prosthetics).

Could Branches please pass any Mesothelioma or Hearing Loss Case Studies to Theresa Smith tsmith@britishlegion.org.uk (or to the County Secretary to pass to Theresa). Area Office will then put together a Master list for our area to send to London for them to use in highlighting this issue to the public and the MOD.

COUNTY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	VENUE
11 January	Annual Meeting of County Conference	Horncastle
25 January	County Committee Meeting	Waddington Club
26 January	Standard Bearers School	Louth
15 February	Regional Standard Bearers Competition	Loughborough
16 March	Standard Bearers School	Crowland
17 March	County Management Board Meeting	County Office
???	Meeting of Annual Conference Delegates	Donington
26 April	County Committee Meeting	TBA
4 May	Annual County Service of Rededication	Wrangle
17/18 May	National Annual Conference	Torquay
9 June	County Management Board Meeting	County Office
22 June	Standard Bearers School	Louth
28 June	County Committee Meeting	TBA
29 June	Armed Forces Day	Countrywide
5/6 July	Waddington International Air Show	RAF Waddington
13 July	Spilsby Show	Spilsby
26/27 July	Heckington Show	Heckington
18 August	County Management Board Meeting	County Office
20/21 September	County Chairman's Seminar	Staverton
21 September	Standard Bearers School – AGM	Crowland
27 September	Branch Chairmen/Secretaries' Seminar	Donington
28 September	County Standard Bearer Competition	Horncastle
4 October	County Committee Meeting	TBA
5 October	Service in the Field	Sibsey
?? October	Presidents' Fund Raising Lunch	Woodhall Spa
25 October	Poppy Appeal Launch	East Kirkby
2 November	Festival of Remembrance	Cranwell
8 November	Festival of Remembrance	Royal Albert Hall
9 November	Remembrance Sunday	Countrywide
11 November	Armistice Day	Countrywide
6 December	County Committee Meeting	Wellingore

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

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Mr J R Thompson, Long Sutton	Mr H A Cole, Wellingore, Navenby & District
Mr C Parson, Coningsby, Tattershall & District	Mr Ray English, Immingham
Mr Jack Spittlehouse, East Halton & District	Mr W J James, Laceby & District
Mr L C Scoulding, Sutton Bridge	Mr K J Body, Heckington
Mr G Gray, Heckington	Mr Herbert Spinks, Long Sutton
Mr D Boyall, Langtoft, The Deepings & District	Mr J Parr, Langtoft, The Deepings & District
Mr S Phillibrown, Langtoft, The Deepings & District	Mr G W Holmes, Boston & District
Mr P A Hodges, Boston & District	Mr B Gibbon, Boston & District
Mr Derrick Taylor, Bourne & District	Mr D Cakebread, Surfleet
Mr Maurice Harness, Woodhall Spa & District	Mr J Green, Louth & District
Mrs Francis Roberts, Sibsey & District	Mr Norman Willets, Louth & District
Mr Raymond Noble, Gosberton & District	Mr Alan Cresswell, Bourne & District

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

Publications Catalogue Autumn/Winter 2013

A new publications catalogue, has been published. It shows all the brochures, dvds, learning packs, promotional and display materials, membership and welfare literature etc which may be available to Branches. It can be viewed on the Legion website through the link: <http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/about-us/who-we-are/publications>

Promotional Items

John Lee, our Armed Forces Liaison Officer (Midlands), reports that each County will receive the following Promotional Items.

Stickers: 9 Rolls Cost per roll £1.43
Flags: 500 Cost per 100 flags = 16.9
Wristbands: 500 Cost per 100 Wristbands £20.59
Pens: 400 Cost per 100 Pens £21.00

If Branches wish to purchase further items please submit orders to him together with a cheque for the full amount by Friday, 7 February 2014 (items must be purchased in batches of 100 (except for stickers (per roll))). John can be contacted on Tel No: 01522 541694; Mobile: 01919 696475; e-mail dlee@britishlegion.org.uk



Standard Bearers' School

The Standard Bearers' Association held the first school of 2014 at Louth on Sunday, 26 January. The turnout was smaller than usual with several regulars missing, although again it was encouraging to see new bearers attending. The only point of note in the pre-school meeting was a decision to update the rules and regulations which have not been changed for many years and it was felt that they are out of date; suggestions were put forward and it was agreed to discuss the changes further at the next meeting at Crowland on 16 March.

The County Parade Marshal and his helpers then put the bearers through their paces with the usual serious training mixed with some light hearted moments to make the session enjoyable to all.

The day ended with the County Bearer Richard Kent having a practice run for the forthcoming Area competition to be held on 15 February at Loughborough. Good luck to him, and we all hope he progresses to the National competition in May.

Next school at Crowland RBL hall, 2.00pm on 16 March - just in time for this year's Rededication Service at Wrangle on 4 May.

NON AFFILIATED CADET UNITS

The following Cadet Units need approaching to affiliate into YOUR Branch? Affiliation of these remaining Units would mean **100% of Military Cadet Units** achieved in Lincolnshire.

SCC: T.S. Wrangler Lincoln

ACF: Epworth Detachment
Billingborough Detachment (3 Coy)
Grantham Detachment (RLC)
Mablethorpe Detachment (4 Coy)

North Somercotes (4 Coy)

ATC 47F (Grantham) Squadron
119 (Scunthorpe) Squadron
195 (Grimsby) Squadron
203 (Gainsborough) Squadron
204 (City of Lincoln) Squadron
2160 (Sleaford) Squadron

Other Youth Groups (Scouts, Guides etc) are also most welcome.

B Marsden (CYO) Lincolnshire

Ambassadors within the Membership

For a number of months there has been talk of introducing a more formal Ambassador role; somebody who speaks to schools and outside organisations about the Legion. **Mariëlle Postill**, the Head of Membership has asked members, who do talks to schools, youth groups etc, to complete a short questionnaire. Please encourage any of your members who give such talks to do so, by Monday, 17 February. They can fill one in on-line on <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VQQ7XMR> or download it to complete and return either direct to **Mariëlle** at Haig House or through the County Secretary

LegionLincs is yours; use it!

Jo Ticehurst (CFR) and I have noticed that some Branches tend to send Branch ideas and news to her so that she can give them some publicity. Fair enough!

But this newsletter is seen by almost every Branch in Lincolnshire, by several non-Legion readers in the County, and by more than a few other Legion Branches and office holders at many levels outside. In other words, it too can give you a publicity boost.

So, when you send something to Jo for publicity, would you please copy me in also –save Jo having to do it.

The next edition of **LegionLincs** will issue at the end of March. Could every Branch please try to send me something, however small, on their plans for the commemoration of the World War One Centenary - by about 15/16 March.

Steve Bonde

Lincolnshire – A Winning Team

Editor, **LegionLincs** 15