



LEGION LINCS

www.britishlegion.org.uk/counties/lincolnshire
Legion Contact Centre 0808 8028080



Newsletter of THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION Lincolnshire County

March/April 2014

Edition 2/2014

Taking the Legion to the Troops



The Welfare Team meet members of 2 Anglians at Kendrew Barracks ...

Stamford Branch launched their programme of walk-in welfare workshops at RAF Wittering on 2 September 2009. They then extended the idea to include St George's Barracks, home of 16 Regt, Royal Artillery at North Luffenham, on 25 August 2011. And now, after a year's negotiation, Stamford Branch received the go-ahead to extend their walk-in welfare workshops to Kendrew Barracks at Cottesmore in Rutland. There, on 25 March 2014, they received a warm welcome from members of all the units based there – 2 Battn Royal Anglian Regiment 7 Regt, Royal Logistical Corps, and members of the Camp administration itself. Indeed, after they wrapped up for the day, they were all invited to sit in on the Kendrew weekly welfare meeting of representatives of all the units on the base and were invited to give a brief presentation. They have now been invited to give a more detailed presentation later to senior officers and NCOs.

They hold their workshops every month in the Hub, the HIVE, the Junior Ranks Mess, or the families' coffee shop of the various units where they can best meet not only the junior military personnel but, equally importantly, their wives and other family members. Their aim is to promote awareness among the Service personnel and their dependants of the wide range of welfare and other services which the Royal British Legion have to offer during their service, in their eventual transition to Civvy Street, and afterwards. The Stamford Welfare Team consists of the Branch Chairman, Vice Chairman, Welfare Representative, and two or three other Branch members. In addition to the monthly workshops, the Branch Welfare Team are now regularly invited to pre-deployment briefings to brief the troops on the services we offer to their families while they are away. They are often joined by Barry Turner, our Area Advice & Information Officer.

Among the issues most commonly raised are injuries and current and future disability arising from military service, homelessness on discharge, potential problems arising from leaving the Services, a child fretting for a parent on deployment, practical problems arising from the absence of a husband, repatriation to attend a sick relative, etc. Currently the team are handling some 5 or 6 new cases during every visit.

These visits are greatly appreciated by Service personnel of all ranks. They have also been a great success for the Branch which has welcomed many Service personnel into its membership, including two Station Commanders at RAF Wittering. The Branch has enjoyed the hospitality of St George's Barracks and RAF Wittering who have hosted the Branch Christmas Dinner for the last 5 years, and the Branch Welfare Team enjoy invitations to many Mess events – see page 14. Stamford Branch look forward to forging similar close relations with Kendrew Barracks, to working with other welfare organisations there, and to bringing the whole range of Legion services to the troops and their families.



... and a member of the Junior Ranks Mess, RAF Wittering.

Lincolnshire – A Winning Team

CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

The Stamford Team are a leading example of what can be achieved by our Branches and their work at RAF Wittering and St Georges Barracks has been successful for some time and very much appreciated by those communities. Now they have accepted the challenge of bringing the benefits of the Legion services to the attention of a newly populated base and the family members that serve and live in that community. Many of those at Kendrew Barracks have recently returned from overseas service and that in itself can bring a whole host of problems with which we can help. Our sincere thanks go to the Stamford team and we will support you to support them.

I am also aware that other Branches are achieving good things in welfare work and rest assured they are not forgotten or overlooked. In fact I hope that we can run articles about them in the near future.

At long last we have been able to occupy our new office in Lincoln. Brian Mahoney has worked extremely hard organising and managing the various works to achieve an excellent standard of accommodation. We are not quite at the stage of having a formal opening yet but I am sure that we will in the near future. Details of the address and how to contact Brian are published opposite in a separate article. Thank you Brian.

Now is the time to look long and hard at where we are after all of the recent upheavals. I believe that we need to form a structured plan to redevelop and rebuild. The aim of this plan must be to encourage all our Branches to work together and work in the same way to make

maximum use of our skills and abilities. We have to accept that times have changed and that many of the old ways of working are not now acceptable. Whether we like it or not we must accept the new ways of working and try to use them for the benefit of our members. We must work with the tools we have been given.

As Chairman it is my intention to include every Branch in what we do and to keep all of our members informed of what we are doing. Every member of the County Committee will be expected to work to this remit. In return I hope that every Branch will make an extra effort to pass on information to all members and if I can help by visiting the Branch then I will do so. Together we can rebuild that vital spirit which makes our membership such a unique society.

Our National Conference is rapidly approaching and Lincolnshire County has a special interest in the results of the voting this year. Some time ago I put forward Skegness for consideration as a place to hold the Conference in 2018. It is time that Lincolnshire had some recognition and it is to be hoped that enough delegates see things that way too. Skegness has good things to offer and we can make it work if the voting is successful. Remember Lincolnshire is a Winning Team.

Kind regards
Tony Goodwin

Message from the County President

I hear from the County Secretary that the national figures for the Poppy Appeal are up (at this stage) by just over £1,000,000 when compared to 2012 but more importantly (from a very parochial point of view) from the County Poppy Appeal Coordinator that the County figure is up by over £10,000. This really is excellent news and shows just how hard our PAOs and collectors have worked. Please pass on my thanks and congratulations to all concerned.

Simon Erskine Crum
County President

25 February 2014

National Annual Conference – Delegates Seminar

The Delegates' Seminar, due to be held at Portland College, has been cancelled. It will now take place, for Lincolnshire delegates only, at the Donington & Quadring Club on Saturday, 26 April 2014 commencing at 10.30 am. Tea/Coffee and a buffet will be provided.

All Branch Delegates attending Annual Conference are encouraged to attend this meeting to discuss the motions being put forward at Conference. Would Branches please let the County Secretary know, by e-mail: bmahoney@britishlegion.org.uk or telephone - 07909533042 - whether their Delegate will be attending.

AREA ADMINISTRATION CHANGES & TRAINING

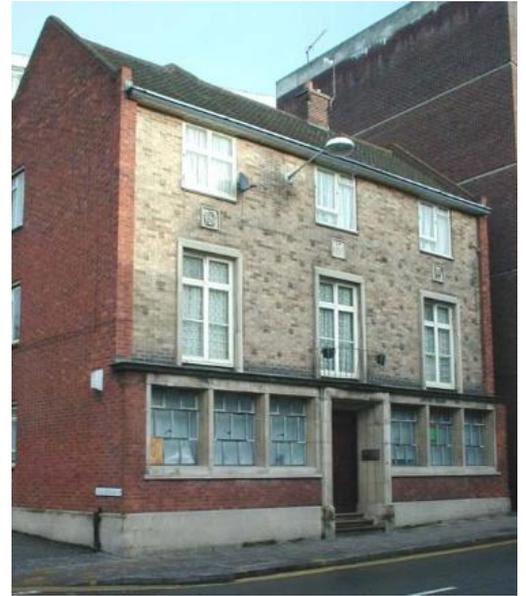
COUNTY OFFICE

Our new County Office, Clasket House, is open for business. Brian Mahoney is now operating on a 'semi-regular' basis there. Office Opening times will be from 10am – 4pm, but it is not yet clear which days of the week, as indeed those for the Outreach Clinic, it will be open.

The formal address is The Royal British Legion, Clasket House, Clasketgate, Lincoln, LN2 1LD and telephone is 0333 011 4301. You can also ring Brian on his mobile - 0709 533042. Any mail sent to POBox 1275 will still be delivered to his house for the next few months.

Branch Representatives are more than welcome to come and see Brian at Clasket House, as they were at Wellngore, but as always it is best to ring him first to ensure that he is there.

There is limited parking outside Clasket House, ½ hour free and there is the same facility at the rear of the building. There are also a number of parking spaces for Blue Badge holders which is 3 hours free and several Council Parking places at the rear of the building as well.



LINCOLNSHIRE WELFARE AND ADVICE INFORMATION OFFICERS

The East Midlands Area has an Area Volunteer Coordinator and 29 Area Pilot Cohort Volunteer Caseworkers who support the Case Officers (COs) within the Area. The Volunteer Caseworkers will not be confined to working in any specific County.

Names and contact details for those active in Lincolnshire are:

Brian Nugent - Advice & Information Officer – North Lincolnshire 0333 011 4306 / 07551 138408

Barry Turner - Advice & Information Officer – South Lincolnshire & Rutland 0333 011 4305 / 07776 170128

Mark Jackson - Case Officer – North Lincolnshire 0333 011 4304 / 07769 876326

Stephen Hart - Case Officer – South Lincolnshire & Rutland 0333 011 4303 / 07789 653007

ADMINISTRATION ROADSHOWS AND TRAINING COURSES

Linda Flecknell, our East Midlands Area Manager, plans to present a number of Branch 'roadshows' on the 'Volunteer'-led welfare and information structure of the new Area. Contact details of the HQ staff in Derby, and of our Lincolnshire 'Volunteers' are set out in the boxes here.

In July and August a programme of courses in 'Presentation Skills' and 'Training the Trainer' will train the new Branch Information Volunteers and Visitor Volunteers for those Branches which require them and for our 'outreach' locations. No one will be allowed to deliver any training until they have passed both of these courses.

As an interim measure before July and August, however, several of our Lincolnshire Case Officers and Advice & Information Officers will attend special training courses in Derby ; this will enable them in turn to train the new Branch Information Volunteers and Visitor Volunteers very quickly in their own Branches (or nearby), getting the Programme off to a quick start.

None of these measures will affect Membership training which will continue to be provided by the County Training Officer – see page 9.

EAST MIDLANDS AREA OFFICE

Saxon House, Heritage Gate, Derby, DE1 1NL

Tel: 01332 381282, 01332 296299

Linda Flecknell - Area Manager (AM)

Digby Bown - Advice & Information Team Leader (AITL)

Theresa Smith - Area Administrator (AA)

William Dixon-Dodds - Area Volunteer Coordinator

Newmarket Poppy Race Day

The Newmarket Poppy Race Day is being held on Saturday, 9 August 2014 at the July Racecourse, Newmarket and Standard Bearers are invited to attend. There will be tickets to the course for the Standard Bearers but not for dressers or partners.

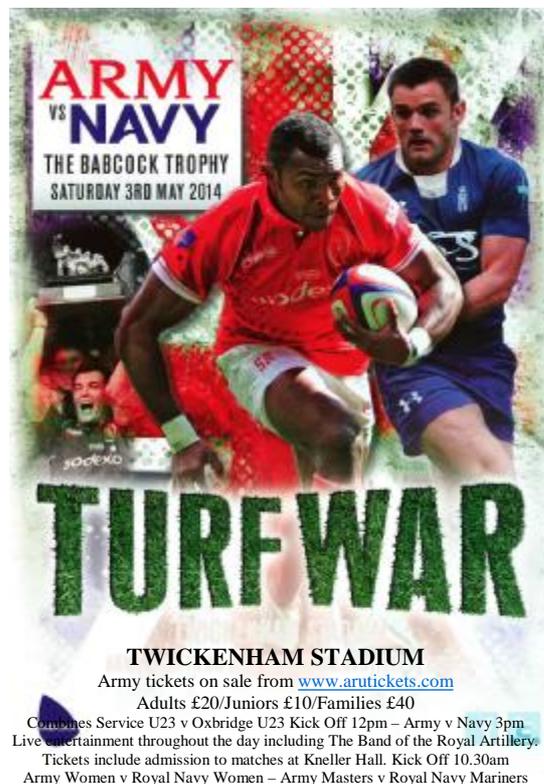
Timing details have yet to be confirmed but arrival time is normally around 13.00 and parade 14.00. Standard Bearers are to understand that it is quite a long walk to the course, along the course and back for inspection and dismissal.

The Parade Marshal will be the Suffolk County Parade Marshal, David Land and the band this year will be the Harwich RBL Pipe Band.

Those wishing to attend should contact Sandra Bromley, Suffolk County Secretary before 28 July 2014 to allow enough time for tickets to be posted out. Sandra can be contacted on 01473 784618 or at sbromley@britishlegion.org.uk

Forces Charities Open AM/AM

The Legion and SSAFA are teaming up with Market Rasen Golf Club for a Forces Charities Open AM/AM golf tournament on Saturday, 11 October. Entry fees are £120 per team of four or £30 each in male/female combinations. These include Halfway House refreshments and two course meal.



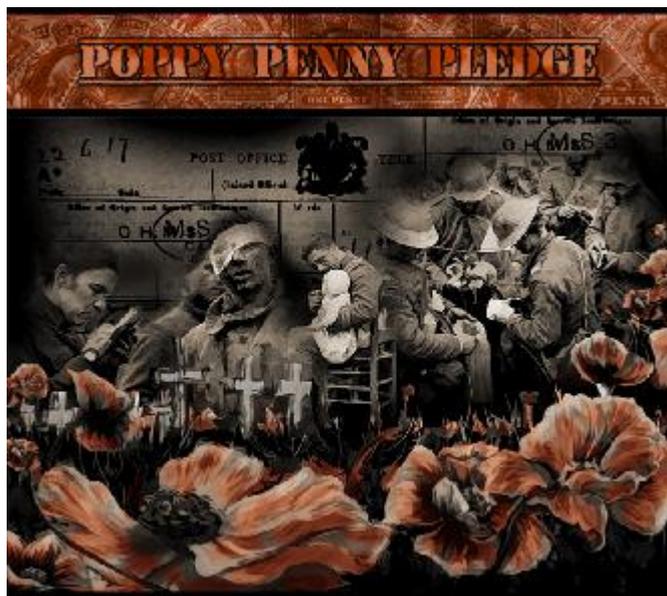
ARMY vs NAVY
THE BABCOCK TROPHY
SATURDAY 3RD MAY 2014

TURFWAR

TWICKENHAM STADIUM
Army tickets on sale from www.arutickets.com
Adults £20/Juniors £10/Families £40
Combiner Service U23 v Oxbridge U23 Kick Off 12pm – Army v Navy 3pm
Live entertainment throughout the day including The Band of the Royal Artillery.
Tickets include admission to matches at Kneller Hall. Kick Off 10.30am
Army Women v Royal Navy Women – Army Masters v Royal Navy Mariners



Poppy Appeal & Fundraising



Poppy Penny Pledge - Pringle tubes wanted

Mablethorpe Branch are collecting empty Pringle crisp tubes for a 4-year fundraiser **Poppy Penny Pledge** project. They plan to wrap the poster pictured here around each Pringle tube, seal the end, and cut a slot for the money. They are asking as many businesses and schools as possible to place a tube in a staff room, in a school or at the till in a shop. The aim is to encourage people to fill the tubes with pennies. When full, they will be replaced with another if the host agrees. Mablethorpe hope to keep this running for the 4 years of the centenary of the First World War.

Please contact Jane Redding on 01507 478011 or at mjreddin@aol.com if you have any Pringle tubes to spare or need further information.

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



The Belvoir Wassailers are a mostly-male voice choir, about 20 strong, based in Knipton, near Belvoir Castle. They are directed by Stamford-born Robert-John Edwards and perform concerts for charity in the Vale of Belvoir and beyond in churches, village halls, theatres etc. Since they reformed in 2010 they have raised over £8000 so far since 2010. Mr Edwards was born in Stamford, trained as a pianist and composer and has had choral works performed at St Martin's-in-the-Fields and in Lincoln and Winchester Cathedrals.

Their repertoire includes everything from Christmas music to Gilbert & Sullivan, Beatles, sea shanties, traditional, Hollywood, and (expanding) wartime songs. Their concerts last from 90 to 120 mins and are mostly self-funded; they ask only a contribution towards their expenses.

Their officers and contact details are:

Chairman (and Bookings) – Gilbert Ward

Tel: 01476 870595; E-mail: gward555@hotmail.com

Secretary – Alan Farmilo

E-mail: alan.farmilo@excite.com

Website: www.belvoirwassailers.org.uk

E-mail: info@belvoirwassailers.org.uk

They are raising funds for the The Royal British Legion in 2014 and their events include:

- 12 April - George Centre, Grantham
- 10 May - Grantham Bowling Club
- 17 May - Harlaxton Church
- 31 May - Branston Church
- 15 June - Kendrew Barracks
- 21 June - Waltham Church
- 5 July - Bottesford Church
- 12 July (am) - St.Wulfram's, Grantham



Stamford Branch are talking to them about their possible participation in one of their WWI Centenary Commemoration events.

Poppy Appeal & Fundraising



The Belvoir Wassailers Male Voice Choir
in association with
Grantham and District Indoor Bowls Club

**THE BELVOIR WASSAILERS present a
WWI commemoration concert with folk
songs and songs from the Great War**

Director: Robert-John Edwards
Accompanist: Jenny Walker

Soloists:
Elaine Bishop, Mezzo-Soprano

**Saturday, 10th May, 2014
at 7.30pm (doors open at 7.00pm)**

Grantham and District Indoor Bowls Club,
Trent Road, NG31 7XQ

FREE ADMISSION
with a retiring collection in aid of
THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



Lord Lieutenant's Award Scheme for Cadet Units

Brian Marsden, the County Youth Officer, wishes to remind Branches that the closing date for submissions for the Lord Lieutenants Award to the Cadet Unit that supports Branches and raises the most money for the Poppy Appeal is 30 April 2014. To date he has not received one nomination for this award. The County Committee would be grateful if all Branches could work with affiliated Cadet Units produce an entry for this important award. Please send submissions to the County Youth Officer.

Early Notice: Poppy Concert

The Central Band of the RAF will play a Poppy Concert for Oakham RBL on Saturday, 18 October. The concert will take place in the Uppingham School Memorial Hall and, apart from the Poppy, the concert will also include a commemoration of the centenary of WWI. Further details to come when available.

Another Early notice –Poppy Dinner

There will be a fundraising Poppy Dinner at the *Wig and Mitre* on Steep Hill, Lincoln on 6 November. All proceeds will go to the Poppy Appeal. Tickets will cost £40 and include dinner and wine and a talk by a French expert about the wines. The food however will be English. It is a really good restaurant with a great reputation. More details, when available, from Jo Ticehurst, CFR.

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Grimsby celebrate their Poppy Appeal success



Gail Davy, PAO for Grimsby, presents the Raines Shield to Pete Waters, Club Chairman, on her right, and Club Vice-Chairman Steve Dyball.

Great Grimsby Branch held a members' party night at the Cartergate Club in Grimsby on Friday 24 January. During the party the Branch presented the Club with the Raines Shield for the club which had raised the most money for the Poppy Appeal. Cartergate Club raised £1030.00 towards a total of £33,000 to date.

The entertainment for the evening was excellent. An Italian tenor told jokes, connecting brilliantly

with the members and keeping them laughing all evening. He invited Pete onto the stage to play a violin with no strings.



Ever seen a chairman on the fiddle!!!!

Laceby & District receive a Poppy Appeal cheque



John Brumpton, Chairman of the Laceby Club (centre) and Mick Robinson, the Club's Christmas Draw Organiser, present a cheque of £150 for the Poppy Appeal, to Margaret Scott, Laceby & District P.A.O.

Poppy Appeal & Fundraising

Lincoln Poppy Forum

The City of Lincoln Branch held a Poppy Forum at the Liberal Club in Lincoln on Friday, 14 March. Jo Ticehurst, our CFR, gave a presentation and Brigadier Barry Reeves presented certificates of appreciation to Morag, Chris and Val Spring for all their support over the years. It was a most successful event with a turn out of just under 60 volunteers and poppy sellers.



Chris Spring



Val Spring



Morag Tones

Lincolnshire – A Winning Team

Every Man Remembered



On 31 January the Legion launched a new website campaign *Every Man Remembered*. Working with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission the Legion aims for each Service man and woman who was killed during World War One to be individually commemorated by the British public throughout the centenary years (2014-2018).

1,117,077 Commonwealth Servicemen and women were killed during the First World War. The losses were felt in almost every town and village in the UK. *Every Man Remembered* is an opportunity for our supporters, members and staff to be part of the greatest collective act of Remembrance our nation has ever witnessed.

TV Historian Dan Snow will narrate a special five part history for our supporters, taking them through the First World War year by year and explaining the key events that shaped our future. For more information, and to watch Dan Snow's video, visit www.everymanremembered.org

Each of our 300,000 existing Legion supporters will shortly receive a mailing with the name of a fallen Service person, chosen at random, for them to commemorate. All supporters will be able to make their own selections once the full site is up and running in spring and those who make a commemoration will receive a personalised certificate.

Remembrance

Scunthorpe Remembrance Concert

Early notice: The East Yorkshire Motor Services Band will play a Remembrance Concert for us in Scunthorpe on Saturday, 8 November. They expect to sell out a 400 seat venue. Details to follow nearer the date.

Lincolnshire Remembrance: Memories and Memorials

Lincolnshire Remembrance: Memories and Memorials is a local community heritage project, run by the LCC. It aims to give a chance for local volunteers, including members of the armed forces community, to learn more about how conflict affected their communities, and how it is commemorated.

Volunteers are being invited to take part in recording and researching war memorials and the names inscribed on them, and the impact of conflict on Lincolnshire's families, communities, landscape and industry, with full training and support provided. Volunteers will also be invited to share what they have found with others through a series of events across 2014, to commemorate and remember the sacrifices of the First World War and other conflicts that have, and still are, affecting Lincolnshire today.



Keelby War Memorial in 1945

The results of the research will be made available on the Lincs to the Past website. A database, also accessible via the *Lincs to the Past* website, will be available from April and will include a survey and record of all Lincolnshire's memorials, a history of the memorials, stories of the people recorded on the memorials, and research on aspects of conflict on Lincolnshire's communities and landscape.

Full details are set out in their first newsletter, issued in February, showing the latest developments. An e-mail copy can be obtained from the County Secretary. This also lists exhibitions, talks, seminars, and roadshows on Lincolnshire memorials, remembrance, especially linked to the forthcoming commemoration of the centenary of The Great War.

If you would like to volunteer, or find out more, please contact Sarah Grundy at sarah.grundy@lincolnshire.gov.uk or 01522 553109. Our County Chairman is also a member of the Steering Group and would be grateful if you could send any requests for speakers etc. through him.

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MG Thankful Village Tour 2014



Jo Ticehurst, CFR, and Gail Davy, Vice Chairman of Great Grimsby Branch, with Miffy and Dave at the formal unveiling of the MG in Cleethorpes on 2 April.

To commemorate the 100th year since the start of World War 1, Chris (Miffy) Smith and his great friend and wing man Dave (Dodge) Lambert will tour the UK in their little classic sports MG visiting all of the 51 Thankful Villages - those villages which were fortunate not to lose a member in either of the two World Wars. They will also call in at some of the Royal British Legion on-going projects along the way so that they can highlight their great work carried out for almost the last 100 years in support of veterans and their families.

Miffy and Dodge and their little car are coming to a village near you this summer! They start in Lincolnshire on Friday, 20 June 2014 at Grimsby/Cleethorpes, calling at High Toynton, and Minting before moving on to Wigsley, Cromwell and Maplebeck in Nottinghamshire. They continue as far as Dorset and Somerset before ending their tour in Grimsby/Cleethorpes again via

Catwick and Flixborough on 28 June, Armed Forces Day. If you live in or close to one of these places or wish to contribute, please contact them on www.justgiving.com/thankfultour2014/

They have also set up a Facebook page so that people can follow their preparations and progress during the tour. Please add yourself as a friend https://www.facebook.com/thankful.tourteam.3?ref=tn_tnmn

Trip to the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA)

Coningsby, Tattershall & District Branch are running a coach trip to the National Memorial Arboretum on Monday, 28 April 2014. They have spare seats available at a cost of £10.00. The coach can take wheelchair/disabled passengers.

They are also organising tea and entertainment in Coningsby Community Hall on Sunday, 28 June 2014 after their Armed Forces Day Church Service. Details on both events from Ann Wilkes 01526 342459 or awilkes65@yahoo.com.

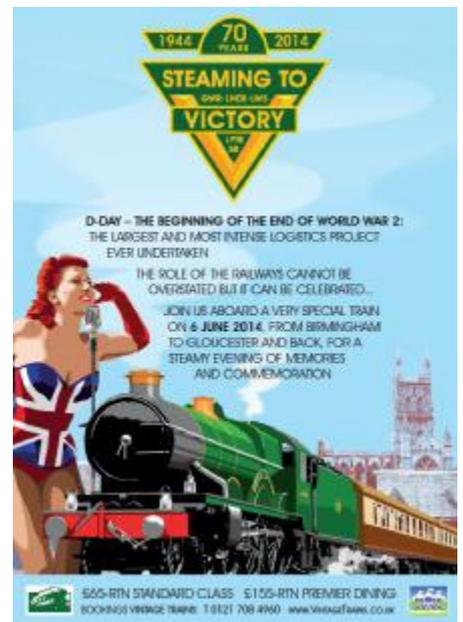
Remembrance

Ulceby X Memorial Service.



A memorial service to commemorate the crashing of two Lancaster bombers in 1944 was held on Sunday 2 March at Ulceby X. It was a cold, windy but thankfully dry afternoon for the Service organised by the **RBL Alford Branch**. Keeping with the tradition of over twenty years the Rev Ivor

Haythorn conducted the service and the act of homage was recited by ex-RAF officer and Skegness Branch Chairman, Les Constantine. Legion Standards were on parade and the RAF Standard was carried by Alford Branch member, Carl Short. It was nice to see a "small" traditional service with several new faces attending for the first time. Next year marks the 70th anniversary of the crashes and planning is already underway to mark the special occasion. The event finished with all retiring to the Alford Conservative Club for refreshments.



The Royal British Legion
ALFORD & DISTRICT BRANCH
"Shoulder to Shoulder with those who served"

Thanks for the Memory

"Wonderful, every little detail made me feel special and loved"

'Thanks for the Memory' is a Wartime concert show produced by Rose Lunt and is performed as a musical tribute to those who fought for our freedom during the World Wars. This is a multi-media show of song, drama and original film footage which is followed by an indoor street party that is reminiscent of an end of war celebration.

Optional Wartime dress, with a prize for the Best Dressed!

Friday 9th May 2014
Alford Corn Exchange
Market Place, Alford, LN13 9EB.
Doors open at 7:00pm and the show commences at 7:30pm.
Tickets cost £5.00 each and will be strictly limited to 100.

Tickets are available at
The Magpies Nest, Anchor Inn and Alford Deli
Please call in to purchase
or call 01507 462346 for phone bookings

Sponsored by Frank Wood and Son Funeral Director and Memorials Plus, Skegness

Rose Lunt "Memories made of this"

Lincolnshire – A Winning Team

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Membership Handbook

A number of branches are reluctant to implement the Handbook because they regard the Handbook as guidance and not as mandatory. The Membership Council are keen to reinforce the message that following the Membership Handbook is compulsory.

A dedicated external web area has been produced to host a digital copy of the handbook. Visit the external web area at: www.britishlegion.org.uk/membershiphandbook

Legion Helpline

The Legion maintains a national welfare help-line on **0808 802 8080**. It is open 8am to 8pm, 7 days a week (except Christmas Day) and is free from UK landlines and main mobile networks. It offers advice on the wide range of welfare services and benefits which the Legion has to offer - war pensions and compensation claims, disability, money problems, inquest advice, care homes, and holiday breaks. It will, when necessary, connect the caller to the nearest Area welfare office.

Please ask your members to bear this number in mind if or when they, or another ex-Service veteran or dependant, need the Legion's welfare services.

Branch Management & Branch Treasurer Courses

The planned County Membership Training Programme is as follows:

Course dates:

Branch Management Course: 23th & 24 April 2014 - Wed/Thurs. (2 day course).

Branch Treasurer Course: 7th & 8th May 2014 - Wed/Thurs. (2 day course)

Food & Refreshments will be provided free and you can claim travelling cost.

Course Venue:

The location will be in the county and planning is currently being undertaken.

Course Attendance & Application:

It is important that Chairmen, Secretaries and Treasurers attend the relevant course, especially those elected to branch committees within the last 3 years.

Please e-mail or phone Sam Ezekiel, County Training Officer on 01522 885716

or the County Secretary if you have any concerns. Application forms can be obtained on-line from the CTO at sezekiel@ntlworld.com.

Training Up-Date Information

In the past year, the Membership Department assumed responsibility for training. Owing to the impact of 'Pathway for Growth, past administrative procedures, an archaic computer system, and limited Membership Department staff, it has taken a long time to arrive at an efficient management and administration process.

The cost of Membership Training comes from the membership fees and must be cost-effective. The need to reduce over-night accommodation, excessive travel and venue costs has seen training conducted in counties using Legion facilities. All CTOs apply for a training budget, which covers in-house training. This year we received £500.

The training programme is a 6 month rolling plan, with input from the counties. Counties submit their requirements by the end of December and the Training Calendar is published towards the end of January showing the allocation of courses and dates for each county. The dates of the courses are published in this newsletter. Independent Examiner training and updates before 30 June 2014 are a priority and more bids are required for this and other training. We are currently investigating a Branch Secretary Course, and also up-date and information training/events at branch meetings. Members can ask to attend any course. Approval to attend lies with the CTO in consultation with the County Committee and subject to meeting the required criteria to attend the course. LOMAS training has been reduced in order to test the robustness of the computer system. However, the CTO can provide training before a branch is allocated the live on-line account.

The CTO requests places in other courses, usually where the number of places required by the county is less than three. These courses are referred to as 'National Courses' which are either conducted at Haig House or in a designated county or non-Legion location. Most are run annually, or bi-annually.

Please keep your training needs under review both as Branches and as individuals and if you have any needs please ask initially through membershiptraining@britishlegion.org.uk. Mr Frank Byrne, Wrangle Branch, recently elected to the County Committee has been appointed Deputy CTO.

Knowledgebase Guidance (or how to get around the RBL national website)

The Royal British Legion has set up an on-line Knowledge Base. This 'Knowledgebase' is designed to answer any questions our beneficiaries, members, and supporters may have, and to help them access the most useful support and information. We should encourage our beneficiaries to use this 'Knowledgebase' to settle their own needs as far as possible, so that our contact centres and Area Offices will have more time to support those with more complex needs.

Information in 'Knowledgebase' covers seven main topics.

- *Practical Help – welfare support, advice and information*
- *Remembrance – ensuring that the sacrifices made in conflict are not forgotten*
- *Joining your Local Legion – Information about Royal British Legion membership*
- *Raising Money – supporting the Armed Forces community through the Poppy Appeal*
- *Campaigning – campaigning to improve the lives of Service people, past and present*
- *Volunteering – information about volunteering opportunities, roles, and responsibilities*
- *Facts and Figures – facts and figures about the Royal British Legion and its work.*

'Knowledgebase' is located on the Home page of the Legion's national website www.britishlegion.org.uk. Just click on the red tab, labelled 'ON LINE HELP – SEARCH OUR KNOWLEDGE BASE'.



This reveals eight new tabs, one each dealing with the above categories. Click on one of those to bring up a whole new set of related sub-categories which, in turn reveal related subjects with facts, answers, advice, articles, and so on. There is some jargon, eg *customer portal users*, but 'Knowledgebase' is a big

improvement on the old website navigation system. It is now much easier to find information, advice and facts about the whole range of Legion services, activities and issues than it used to be.

MoneyForce 12 months on

The MoneyForce training programme and website, designed to provide financial support and advice to the Armed Forces family, were inaugurated in March last year. Backed by former Soldier Dame Kelly Holmes, the website includes an innovative budget planner, car cost calculator and credit card forecaster, all designed to equip Service personnel and their families with the best information and tools to make informed financial decisions about their future.

The unique nature of regular relocation and deployment often makes financial management particularly difficult for Service personnel. MoneyForce has been designed specifically to address this and help Service personnel and their families manage their finances better.

The programme is going from strength to strength; in the last year 65,000 visitors accessed the site and over 6,500 new recruits have received the MoneyForce training module.

Janet Boyce, MoneyForce Programme Manager for the Legion said: "Looking ahead we are developing three new tools to be launched in April; GoalSaver – to help people get into the savings habit, HomeFinder – to enable users to work out if they can afford to buy a property and the MoneyFit challenge – an assessment of someone's MoneyFitness with action plans to improve their financial well-being." Find out more about MoneyForce on their website at www.moneyforce.org.uk.

Lincolnshire – A Winning Team

Area Standard Bearers Competition

The Area Standard Bearers Competition was held at the Loughborough Grammar school on 15 February. County Standard Bearer, Richard Kent, again represented Lincolnshire, hoping to repeat last year's winning performance. Other competitors were Suzy James (Leicester and Rutland), Sam Clark (Derbyshire), May Fowler (Cambridgeshire) and Patrick Cutting (Northamptonshire). The Women's Section competitors were Sonia Beale (Northamptonshire) and Michelle Reeves (Leicester and Rutland).

There was also a good turn out of Legion dignitaries to encourage the contestants: Three County Chairmen - Tony Goodwin (Lincolnshire), Bernard Page (Derbyshire), and David Atterbury (Leicestershire), Stuart Allen of the Membership Council, Bill Parkin of the Board of Trustees and Chris Ginn. The Women's Section were represented by their National Vice President Jenny Martin and event organiser Julia Walker. The competitors were marched in and the act of homage was recited by the Leicester County President, Colonel Robert Martin.



May Fowler and Richard Kemp proudly display their trophies.

National Parade Marshal, Kevin Ayliffe, was in charge for the day and started the competition with the dress inspection. The competitors then carried out their individual drills and the result looked to be close between Richard and May Fowler. Both competed in the national competition last year but due to area changes they met at area level this year for the first time.

The results were announced and, yes, it was close - just one point separating the two. Unfortunately for Lincolnshire, May was the winner this year and Richard was runner up. He was of course disappointed but a creditable second place to a previous National finalist was a good result.

Colonel Martin presented trophies to May and Richard. Sonia Beale repeated last years success in winning the Women's Section competition and received her with her cup from Jenny Martin. Colonel Martin thanked everyone for attending and wished May Fowler good luck in the National comtion.

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Rogue Poppy Appeal Collectors

We have received reports that two smartly dressed ladies, purporting to be from the Legion, have been collecting cash in the Langtoft and Deepings area. When challenged they have no identification. There has also been an article in the Lincolnshire Echo - <http://www.lincolnshireecho.co.uk/Rude-aggressive-doorstep-callers-targeting/story-20602999-detail/story.html> - regarding rude and aggressive door to door collectors.

There are genuine Legion collectors operating in our area, collecting for the Poppy Appeal Lottery, but they wear appropriate branded Legion clothing and carry identification. See page 9 of LegionLincs for November 2013 for their names and ID numbers. If Branches hear of any queries or unusual practices, please contact the County Secretary.

CWGC Site Visits and Events

The CWGC have asked that Branches and members inform if they are planning an event or visit at their sites during the Commemoration period. There is significant demand to hold events at this time and CWGC would very much like to facilitate as many as possible. To help them to ensure that events run smoothly and do not collide with other organisations, they do need the following information: date, timings and location of event, position in the cemetery, numbers attending, open or closed to the public, and any special requirements. An on-line application form can be obtained from the County Secretary.

Due to the nature of their cemeteries CWGC cannot guarantee event exclusivity, but they will do their very best to avoid any other events running at the same time and facilitate your plans as much as possible.

Changes in MOD Veterans Services

The Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA) merged with Defence Business Services (DBS) on 1 April 2014. This follows a recommendation of Lord Levene's 2011 Defence Reform Report and will now serve some 1.2 million active serving civilians and veterans. They will pay, HR, compensation and pension services, pay invoices on behalf of the MOD, carry out more than 130,000 defence vetting clearances each year and provide vetting and archive services to more than 100 other Government organisations.

There will be three new sections in the merger:

- 'Veterans UK' responsible for Armed Forces pensions, Armed Forces injury/bereavement compensation schemes, veterans welfare services, the Veterans UK helpline service and Veterans UK website. It also includes the management of the Veterans Advisory and Pension Committees.
- 'DBS Military Personnel' covering the JPA system and JPA Portal, the JPAC enquiry centre, processes in support of Joint Personnel Administration for the Armed Forces, MOD Medal Office and the Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre.
- 'DBS Civilian Personnel' providing the HRMS system, pay services including the Civilian Personnel contact centre, resources, wellbeing, business services and career consultancy.

These new sections will join DBS's National Security and Vetting sections to create, for the first time, a combined 'People Services' function supporting Defence and, with DBS's Finance Services and Knowledge and Information sections, create an integrated Shared Services Centre for Defence



The SPVA brand will now be phased out and we should all drop any future references to 'SPVA' in any of our correspondence or publications. The new Veterans UK name and Veterans UK logo, seen here, will be used in future in respect of veterans' services.

The Veterans UK new helpline (0808 1914 2 18) and extended opening hours (0730-1830 (1700 Fri)) have proved very successful. They are also now working with Combat Stress and The Samaritans to provide a 24 hour 'crisis' advice service, which is already proving of great value to veterans in need of immediate support. These services complement the existing Veterans Welfare Service (VWS) who will continue to assist veterans one to one via the telephone or home visits where needed.

The Veterans UK email address will also change to veterans-uk@mod.uk. But the Veterans UK website www.veterans-uk.info remains unchanged. However, there are plans to transfer its content to the www.GOV.uk website in summer 2014. This will help us to develop online services in the future and will make information on veterans support available to a wider audience.

MOD Discount Service



The [official MOD discount service](#) offers a number of online and high street discounts to the Armed Forces Community. It is available to all serving and ex-serving Legion members.

Thousands of savings can be made in stores, restaurants and venues across the UK with the [Defence Privilege Card](#) (above). The scheme also allows small and large companies to get involved with offering a discount and encourages companies in local areas to offer discounts to the Armed Forces Community.

[Join for free and start saving £100's a year.](#) Go to the [Defence Discount Service](#) website to find out more.

Service-related hearing problems

The Legion's Public Affairs and Public Policy team want to hear from members who think that their hearing has been damaged by their Service in the UK Armed Forces. Many have already been in contact, in response to an article in October's Legion Magazine

The team have now produced an online survey, and would be very grateful if members could spend a few minutes filling it out, or pass it onto someone who has Service-related hearing loss or ringing in their ears.

Answers will remain completely confidential, and will just be analysed alongside other respondents' answers (e.g. to identify patterns and trends). Members will be able to provide their contact details at the end, but they do not have to identify themselves if they do not want to. The results will inform the Legion's political campaigning work.

COUNTY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	VENUE
24 April	County Committee Meeting	Waddington Club
26 April	Meeting of Annual Conference Delegates	Donington Club
4 May	Annual County Service of Rededication	Wrangle
17/18 May	National Annual Conference	Torquay
16 June	County Management Board Meeting	County Office
22 June	Standard Bearers School	Louth
28 June	County Committee Meeting	TBA
28 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
25 October	Poppy Appeal Launch	East Kirkby
26 October	Presidents' Fund Raising Lunch	Woodhall Spa
2 November	Festival of Remembrance	Cranwell
6 November	Poppy Fundraising Dinner	Wig & Mitre, Lincoln
8 November	Festival of Remembrance	Royal Albert Hall
9 November	Remembrance Sunday	Countrywide
11 November	Armistice Day	Countrywide
6 December	County Committee Meeting	TBA
17 January 2015	County Annual Conference	Horncastle

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

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Mr Alan Cresswell, Bourne & District	Mr Donald MacMillan, City of Lincoln
Mrs Joyce Burton, Stamford	Mrs Joan Ellis, Skegness
Mr Errol Warwick, Long Sutton	Mr George Haw, Donington & Quadring
Mrs Irene Johnson, Donington & Quadring	Mr George Dack, Surfleet
Mr Tony Beebe, Woodhall Spa & District	Mr A Watkinson, Gainsborough & District
Mr J W Spinks, Fleet & District	Mr Lawrence Dench, Long Sutton



Ready for action



... and then a curry supper and the Sergeants' Mess

One of the advantages of being a member of a Branch welfare team is that they get invited to all kinds of events and treats. One such was an invitation which the Stamford Branch welfare team received to the *Regimental Novice Boxing Finals* staged by 16 Regt, Royal Artillery on 20 February at St George's Barracks. This was a full blown Mess evening, everyone in full dress uniform and we in black tie. The evening started with an enthusiastic *Haka* by four Gunners followed by 8 bouts of enthusiastic boxing, mostly at light middleweight level, a pipe band, two rather nice young ladies who paraded the round numbers, a curry supper and a very generous bar.



It was all ferocious action

Services Boxing Tournaments



RAF Waddington held a charity boxing match on Thursday, 6 March. The event was organised by Flt Sgt Kev Brothwell from 51 Squadron and was a combination of Army, RAF, and civilian boxers from Grantham, both male and female. It was a truly exciting evening, dominated by the Army but the RAF put up a hard fight. Overall the evening raised over £3,600 to be split between the RBL and a disabled young girl who needs a light box.



It's tough being a CFR

Armed Forces Covenant Grant Schemes

The Chancellor announced in June 2013 that the Government would be making its financial support for the Armed Forces Covenant permanent. This support will take the form of a £10 million per year grant scheme which will take over from the Community Covenant Grant Scheme and LIBOR Fund in April 2015. Work is underway to design this new scheme which will, hopefully, be revealed this autumn.

Civvy Street

The service provider of the Civvy Street website has undertaken a concerted effort to raise the awareness of this employment service. They have provided some up to date marketing and briefing literature, which will be especially useful for placing on Unit/Military Base websites and intranets and with HIVEs, local Councils and key partners. Copies can be seen and downloaded from www.civvystreet.org or find out more by calling the helpline on **0800 169 4073**

The next edition of *LegionLincs* will issue at the end of May. 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 May.