

# The Royal British Legion

Caring and campaigning for the serving and ex-Service community



*Warsop, Meden Vale & District  
Branch*

## **NEWSLETTER**



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**W**elcome to the November 2011 Newsletter.

Poppy Appeal  
The collecting boxes have gone out due to the efforts of a few members who came to fill the boxes and de-

liver them to the shops. Thanks to all who helped.

The Poppy Launch was a great success with Mansfield Mayor, Tony Egginton buying the first Poppy from PAO Katy Corcoran.

Again, thanks go to those who sold tickets and attended, to make the event a success. Members are collecting at Mansfield Football ground on Thursday evening trying to boost this years ap-



peal. We had an exceptional year last year with our final total being £17,133.06. We are very lucky to have a great relationship with Warsop Church and The Rotary Club of Warsop Shirebrook and District who are staunch supporters.

Membership  
Cash payers please contact me to arrange collection of monies if not already paid.  
843944.

#### AGM

We have a new chairman! Our Vice-Chairman, Mr Brian Marples has taken over the reins from Mike Trinder who has taken Vice-Chair to support Brian. Members voted unanimously at our last meeting to support our friends at Edwinstowe Branch who are having some difficulties in finding members well enough to take on Branch Officer positions. If ratified, Edwinstowe may become a sub-branch of Warsop which means they keep their Standard but Branch management will fall to

Warsop. Edwinstowe's PAO, Mrs Christine Needham came to our AGM and agreed to become a Committee member to strengthen links between our two Branches.

November Meeting  
It was decided at our last meeting to have a November meeting this year on the 7th November 7.45pm at the Memorial Club.

Christmas Meal  
We still have a few places left although the transport is now full.  
Saturday the 26<sup>th</sup> November at South Forest, 7pm for 7.30pm.



Birthday Greetings  
November birthday wishes go to the fol-

lowing members;

Anne Andrews  
Gordon Bell  
Lorraine Geeson  
Keith Jellis  
Alan Mallatratt

A very happy birthday to you all.

#### New Members

This month we welcome one new member, Carla Chapman.

Welcome to the branch.

#### Diary Dates

November  
11<sup>th</sup> Service Warsop Vale. Gather at 10.30am.  
11<sup>th</sup> - H4H fundraiser, Woodend Club, Church Warsop, starts 7pm.  
13<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Sunday. Parade starts 10.20am Carr Lane.  
26<sup>th</sup> - Branch Christmas Meal, South Forest

#### Contact Details

Please let me know if you change your address, phone or e-mail otherwise I can't contact you!

Next Meeting  
Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November  
- Doors open 7.30pm.

Pete

## **The Royal British Legion and Help for Heroes**

The Royal British Legion and Help for Heroes (H4H) do different things as charities supporting the Armed Forces. Help for Heroes is a fundraising and grant-making organisation, concentrating primarily on raising funds for building projects. The Legion has a wider remit and is the first port of call for a wide range of help for the entire Armed Forces Family. We care and campaign for all those currently serving and their dependants, as well as veterans - today and for the rest of their lives. The Legion is the guardian of the Military Covenant and our campaigning activity has recently focused on persuading the Government to write into law the principles of the Military Covenant. This is vital to honour the unique nature of Service and ensure that no disadvantage is experienced as a result of it by Armed Forces personnel and their families.

Welfare is at the heart of the Legion. We spend nearly £1.4 million a week delivering health and welfare support to members of the Armed Forces, veterans and their families - including benefits, legal and careers advice; care in residential homes; help in the home for veterans; and free holidays for the children of Armed Forces personnel and carers. In 2010 we responded to over 160,000 calls for help. We have provided financial assistance to more than 16,000 Service personnel and recent veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan operations. We are there for our beneficiaries whenever they need us at life's critical events.

We have represented one-third of all the appeals for higher compensation payments arising from injuries suffered in Afghanistan. Our campaigning won compensation worth over £40 million for our most seriously injured heroes and those ill as a result of Service. We help rehabilitate the physically injured and to train and resettle others into civilian life. We provide direct support to Service widows and other dependants.

Our members are a vital force within the Legion; H4H is not a membership organisation. We are also actively recruiting new supporters using social media such as Facebook, LegionLive and Twitter. The success of our message is borne out nationally by the huge support for our fundraising, which has seen record Poppy Appeals year on year. The Legion now has more followers across social media than any other charity.

The Legion actively partners with other charities - particularly those in the same sector and especially on the delivery of welfare services to those most in need. For example, working with the RAF Benevolent Fund and Citizens Advice Bureaux we provide the highly successful Benefits & Money Advice Service which helped over 8,000 beneficiaries with unmanageable debt last year. Naturally, given our huge remit, we would want our members' branches to concentrate on raising funds for the Legion's work, including through the Poppy Appeal. While our constitution does not permit County and Branch formations to donate funds raised for the Legion to other charities, we are a major grant giving charity, providing grants to such as Combat Stress and St Dunstan's for specialist welfare services.

We have worked successfully with H4H in the past on national fundraising projects, with both charities benefiting from the additional income generated and the high level of public support for the Armed Forces. The Legion and H4H are currently partnering with the MoD in the Army Recovery Capability programme to help wounded, injured and sick Service personnel recover and either return to duty or move successfully into civilian life. We have committed to investing up to £50 million in this programme - the largest single donation in the Legion's 90-year history. This includes £20m for four Personnel Recovery Centres in the UK: H4H is funding the physical building of these centres; we are funding their operating costs for the next ten years. In addition, the Legion is funding the creation and operation of The Royal British Legion Battle Back Centre which will use adaptive sports and adventurous training to help Service personnel recover. This Centre is due to open in September 2011.