



LEGION LINCS



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Newsletter of
THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION
Lincolnshire County

November - December 2015

Edition 5/2015

The Children of Lincolnshire 'do their bit'



... not getting wet



... poppy making in Stamford



... drumming at the County Poppy Appeal Launch



... writing poems

...and many more. See pages 3, 5, 8, 9, and 10 and more.



... winning a trophy winner



... and wreath making



Lincolnshire – A Winning Team

PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD

My main reason for writing this forward is to wish you all, your families and friends a very, very Happy Christmas and a pleasant and prosperous New Year. It seems that no time has passed since I was thinking the same thoughts in December 2014. Why do clocks seem to be running faster and faster and why does time seem to be passing more and more quickly? I blame Einstein and his theory of relativity! The only reason for apportioning this responsibility is that I do not understand either the theory of relativity or the clocks speeding up. It also makes me happier than just thinking that I am just getting older.

This edition quite rightly concentrates on Remembrance and the Poppy Appeal. It never ceases to amaze me that people, both collectors and donors, are so incredibly generous, the former with their time and the latter with their money. This seems to be the case again this year but I sense that Remembrance has changed slightly and for the better. More young people are becoming involved, again highlighted in this edition, and more civic authorities are instituting their own ceremonies, especially on Armistice Day. I had been worried that too much concentration on commemorating the anniversaries of various 1st and 2nd World War events would make Remembrance a bit repetitive and a bit of a bore. However, the opposite seems to be true so far.

There is one other thing that I would like to highlight. This year's High Sheriff visited Her Majesty's Prison North Sea Camp at Freiston near Boston as part of his official duties. Being a retired Air Vice-Marshal, he asked the Prison Governor about his experiences with ex-service inmates. The Governor launched into a veritable oration of praise for the Royal British Legion and the

work that we were doing. He said that, without the Legion's efforts, his rehabilitation tasks for ex-servicemen would be a lot more difficult and, at times, impossible. This is an aspect of the Legion's work about which I had heard but about which I knew very little. Indeed, there is no mention that I can find on the "Knowledge Base" referring directly to the Legion's support for rehabilitation. The subject was spoken about in a Parliamentary debate about a year ago but got virtually no mention in the press. At this time of family parties and joyous reunions let us spare a thought for those who are detained and those, especially those from the Royal British Legion, who help them get back to their families and friends. When we talk to non-Legion members about the Legion's work let us remember to mention this aspect of our support.

Next year sees two fairly momentous Legion related events in Lincolnshire. Between the end of May and the beginning of September the Wave, some of the ceramic poppies from last year's Tower of London display, will be on show in Lincoln Castle. What is more the national celebration of Armed Forces Day will take place in Cleethorpes on 25 of June. On a more sombre note 1 July sees the 100th anniversary of the start of the Battle of the Somme in which seven battalions from Lincolnshire fought.

So let us look forward to 2016. It will be a full and busy year. But above all a very Happy Christmas to you all.

Simon Erskine Crum

County Poppy Appeal Awards

During the County Poppy Appeal Launch at East Kirkby, Mrs Sarah Robinson, Deputy Lord Lieutenant, presented the annual County Poppy trophies:

Sheppard Trophy - Laceby Branch (Mrs M. Scott) for the largest Poppy Appeal increase by a large Branch.

Gill Rymer Cup – Tealby & Market Rasen Branch (Les Tranter) for the largest Poppy Appeal increase by a small Branch.

Stella Willing Award – Sandy Davis (Gedney Hill)

Jenny Ross Trophy – Mark & Jane Reddin (Mablethorpe Branch) for the best innovative idea

The Lord Lieutenant's Poppy Appeal Trophy for Uniformed Cadet Units

- Joint Winners TS Beaver, Unit 560 SCC (Immingham)
1228 DF (Immingham) ATC
E Coy (RA) Humberside & South Yorkshire
(Immingham) ACF



The County trophies

Each unit will hold the trophy for four months during the next 12 months

Lincolnshire – A Winning Team

Lincolnshire Poppy Appeal Launch 2015



Members and supporters crowd into the hangar

The Lincolnshire Poppy Launch got off to its now traditionally tremendous launch on 24 October at the Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre in East Kirkby. Over 500 of us, more than ever before, were crowded in front of “*Just Jane*” in the giant hangar, including many of the County Poppy Appeal Organisers, collectors and Legion supporters. This year the guests of honour were Mrs Sarah Robinson, Deputy Lord Lieutenant, and the Bishop of Lincoln, the Rt Rev Christopher Lowson. The Mareham le Fen Victory Silver Band once again expertly entertained us and provided the music for

the Muster of Standards. As ever we all savoured the poignant moment when the Standards were dipped and the Last Post echoed round the hangar.

The cadets on parade - E Coy (RA) Humberside & South Yorkshire (Immingham) ACF, 1228 DF (Immingham) ATC and TS Beaver, Unit 560 SCC (Immingham) - were a real credit to their units.

The Rt Rev Lowson expressed his pleasure at the honour of launching this year’s Poppy Appeal. He said that the Poppy Appeal and its launch were about the people who had served and were still serving their country. He was very proud of the



people of Lincolnshire who were so generous and dug so deeply to fund a charity as important as the Royal British Legion. He was proud and honoured to declare the launch of the 2015 Poppy Appeal.

It was also a special day for retired Sgt Bill Marlow, with 26 missions as a rear gunner in Wellingtons, who was celebrating his 91st birthday with his family that day.



The Bishop of Lincoln launches the Poppy Appeal

Poppy Appeal

Sleaford Poppy Prom



Prommers in full flow at last years concert – photo courtesy of the Sleaford Target

Sleaford and District Branch held their ninth Poppy Prom, performed by the Sleaford Concert Band, at the St George’s Academy, Sleaford, on Saturday, 24 October 2015.

The Director of Music for the Sleaford Concert Band, Jim McQuade, again chose the theme for the Concert - commemoration of the end of World War Two and Victory in Europe (VE) and Victory in Japan (VJ) Days. This year technical support was taken to a higher level and with the support of Samantha Grooby from the Academy, much more video and film clips were shown to compliment the pieces of music. All agreed that it gave a different dimension to the performance.

Being a 1945 theme this year the Band started the second half of the Concert with their new Miller Magic Band and introduced a “Street Party” theme. This was a great success and much appreciated by the audience who sang along to the well known Glenn Miller tunes. This was followed by the annual “Prom”, where all the favourite songs were played and sung with enthusiasm by the audience, waving their Union Jacks with gusto.

The Branch are very grateful to a number of local businesses who supported the event by donating some extremely generous raffle prizes. The generosity of the audience on the night allowed the Branch to raise the magnificent sum of £488.00. The Branch are also very grateful to Rauceby War Weekend Committee who presented Lt Col Ian Graham, the Branch President, with a cheque for £12,000 towards the Branch Funds. This sum of money will help the Branch continue to provide aid and comfort to those members of the Community who find themselves in need.

Plans are already under consideration for the 2016 Poppy Prom, which will be held at the St George’s Academy on Saturday, 22 October 2016. It is hoped that the local Community will support this Concert with the same enthusiasm they have done over the last nine years.

Lincolnshire – A Winning Team

Stamford Poppy Appeal Party



A very crowded evening

Over 100 members and supporters were the guest of Stamford Branch on 2 December at their annual party to celebrate and thank all their star Poppy Collectors for another successful Poppy Appeal, well on course to exceed £45,000. They were also honoured with the presence of the County Chairman, Tony Goodwin and his wife Jan, Lt Col Steve Forman, O/C, 1 Military Working Dogs Regiment, St George's Barracks. and Maj. Steve Nichols of 20 Works Group, RE (Air Support), RAF Wittering and many of their colleagues who had supported the Poppy Appeal so well this year.

After the Act of Remembrance Jim Jackson, PAO, 'compered' a very busy evening. Tony Goodwin began with the presentation of Legion badges and Certificates of thanks to all those who had helped the Poppy Appeal over 10, 15, 20 and even 35 years. Lt Col Forman and Maj. Nichols then presented Branch Certificates of Appreciation to all those collectors and organisations who had each helped to raise over £100 for the Poppy Appeal this year. Finally there were special presentations to the Poppy Appeal by the Peterborough 5 x 5 Challenge (£6000), Stamford Independent Travel (£118), Joanne Hinson (£222), and Laura Blowers (£298).



Presentation of special donations on the night.



Teagan & Cliff receive their Certificates from the county Chairman

The highlight of the evening was the award of a special Certificate to young Teagan Broughton who, although aged 10, already has 5 years service to the Poppy Appeal behind her, and to Cliff Shepherd who, aged 102, has had a bit more time to help us!

In conclusion, Tony Goodwin thanked everyone for supporting the Poppy Appeal and for everything they do for the Legion. Stamford Branch, he said, set the standard for the way in which it works with the local community. Stamford especially thank Jim Jackson, PAO, who masterminded and ran the entire evening, and his team of Poppy Appeal helpers, without whom, none of this would have been possible.

Poppy Appeal

1 Military Working Dogs Regiment



Stamford Branch have enjoyed the support of the military dogs at St George's Barracks during the Poppy Appeal for several years. Each year they and their handlers are a popular attraction at the Branch mobile display unit in Stamford High Street, drawing hordes of young children – and their parents with loose cash!

Once the 124 Military Working Dogs Support Squadron, they are now the first separate Military Working Dogs Regiment. Their Commanding Officer, Lt Col Steve Forman, and many of his handlers, were guests at Stamford Poppy Appeal Party this year, when he gave a brief history of his Regiment since it was formed in 2010.

The deployment of military dogs goes back to WWI and now forms part of every deployment by British Armed Forces. They currently have 320 dogs – Spaniels, Labradors, and especially Belgian Shepherds – which have two specific roles of protection and detection. They have saved countless lives during their service and, uniquely among military dogs of other countries' Armed Forces, they do the job because they want to and seek only play and affection as a reward.

The next generation

Leading up to Remembrance time officers of the Pinchbeck Branch, Jim and Pauline Seymour, visited the local primary school to give a talk on Remembrance and a practical demonstration of poppy making in which over forty pupils took part. Each year the school takes an active part in the local parades and so it was fitting that the Branch helped to explain why we remember and the significance of the poppy.



Lincolnshire – A Winning Team

Lincoln Poppy Bus



Members of the City of Lincoln Branch took part in a photo shoot in Cathedral Square on 13 October.

Staff at Stagecoach East Midlands have raised £2,000 for the Poppy Appeal and their 'Poppy Bus', shown here, raised £500 for the City of Lincoln Poppy Appeal this year on its regular daily runs in and around Lincoln. Passengers were encouraged to share a picture of their hero via Twitter and £1 was donated to the Royal British Legion for each one. Vinyl poppies were displayed on the front of 300 Stagecoach East Midlands buses, with £1 donated for each one. Legion members were also given free travel on all East Midlands bus services before and after Remembrance Day.

Michelle Hargreaves, Managing Director at Stagecoach East Midlands, said: "It is so important to recognise all that war veterans have done for our country. It is a huge part of our heritage and the poppy is such a well

recognised symbol of remembrance."

Ann Davidson, PAO in Lincoln, said: "We are very pleased to have the Stagecoach East Midlands Poppy Bus in the area and applaud the Remembrance initiative. Our members regularly report having seen or ridden on the Poppy Bus and are proud to be associated with it."

Poppy Appeal

Women's Section Harvest Festival

The Women's Section of Lincolnshire held their annual Harvest Festival on Saturday, 17 October at Coningsby Methodist Church. It was attended by their County Chairman, Irene Francis, and committee members, and also by Tony Goodwin and Pauline

Seymour, respectively County Chairman and Committee Member of The Royal British Legion, Lincolnshire. There was also by a good turn out of members.

Mrs Francis welcomed everyone and they moved into the Church for a Service which was led by retired Rev Anne Gray and the organist Sandra. It was a lovely service with Harvest hymns and readings. Afterwards they all moved back into the main room for a Quiz by Maysie Wilson on fruit which was won by Jan Goodwin and Pauline Seymour.

Next it was the Harvest Sale to which members had very generously donated items. The sale was conducted by Tony Goodwin, by his wife Jan. The afternoon ended with a lovely tea with the food being given by Women's Committee, and also a Raffle and a Name Card.

It was an enjoyable afternoon meeting many members and they made a Grand Total of £279.75. So thank you all ladies and gentlemen for making this year's Harvest Festival successful.

The next Women's Section social event is our Easter Fayre on Saturday, 19 March 2016 at Coningsby Methodist Church. They invite all members and friends to come and have some fun. The committee look forward to meeting

Stamford youngsters' poppy initiative



Three pupils at St Gilbert's Primary School in Stamford made their own poppies to support the local Poppy Appeal. Imogen Ince, Olivia Ibbott, and Jessica Hartley raised a total of £39.31. They presented this sum to Steve Bonde, RBL Stamford President at their school assembly on 20 November.

Woodhall Spa Guides help out



PAO Nina Gaunt was out in the Rain with the Woodhall Spa Guides who 'sold' poppies in the Village shopping area on the Saturday.

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County Festival of Remembrance



The County and Branch Standards mustered smartly on to the stage; cadets from the E Coy (RA) Humberside & South Yorkshire (Immingham) ACF, 1228 DF (Immingham) ATC and TS Beaver, Unit 560 SCC (Immingham) marched down the aisle, followed by representatives of RAF Digby and RAF Cranwell College Cadets, the Salvation Army, Poppy Collectors Val Scally from Healing and Tony Wright from Wrangle. The County Festival of Remembrance 2013 at RAF College Cranwell had begun.

Tony Goodwin, County Chairman, welcomed everyone reminding us that our work as the Legion was as valid as ever. .

He called therefore for us all to rededicate ourselves and pledged that the Legion will not fail those who need our help.

Sam Ezekiel, the County Training Offer, then spoke of his experiences as a child in Singapore during Japanese occupation during WWII, and we then enjoyed another performance of 'drama' and song by CATS (the Cranwell Amateur Theatre Society and Youth Theatre) now affiliated with the Legion.

The Volunteer Band of RAF Waddington then played for us a selection of tunes – Vaughan Williams' Hornpipe and Sea Songs, a medley of French songs, David of the White Rock, and the Luftwaffe (!) March by Ron Goodwin.



The County Chaplain, the Rev. Canon John Thorold, and the Rev. Dr Linda Pugh, Curate of Morton led the Remembrance Service. In his address, the Rev. Thorold spoke of how the pattern of Remembrance, once considered a reminder of the need for peace, has increased in importance over the past 100 years. But who could forget the River of Blood at the Tower of London last year. Each poppy represented a life lost during WWI. Seldom has such an event grown and disappeared so fast. But it signified why we now raise funds for to alleviate the suffering of war. The poppy has become our national emblem of Remembrance.

He raised the issue of personal responsibility, saying that his father served in Bomber Command during WWII, engaged on bombing civilian areas in Germany. Afterwards it seems a mad thing to do without thinking further, but such are the stresses of war. Later, as a young curate, he agreed to accompany a friend in visiting his son's grave in Normandy. It was an incredible experience for him. The scale of the cemeteries and the sheer cost and waste of life opened his eyes. He too felt part of the agony his father must have felt. He concluded by pointing to the Cadets outside selling poppies, alongside older veterans. They were a reminder to us that many had paid the ultimate sacrifice, had given everything for us. We must never forget.

Remembrance

Sleaford Poppy Window



Sleaford's newly opened Museum kindly agreed to host a "Poppy Window" last October for the Sleaford and District Branch. It remained on display until Remembrance Sunday. Here you can see some of the museum volunteers and members of the Branch on completion of the display.



Lincolnshire – A Winning Team

Poppies in the Castle

Lincoln Castle is to host the Tower of London's iconic ceramic poppies 'Wave' sculpture. Five thousand ceramic poppies in 'The Wave' will be on view in the Castle between May 28 and September 4 in 2016. 'Wave' is from the installation 'Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red' originally at HM Tower of London from August to November 2014 where 888,246 poppies were displayed, one to commemorate every death in the British Armed Forces of the First World War. It is a curling swathe of poppies which rose up to create an arch over the entrance to the Tower.

The new presentation is an educational event organised by the LCC and will give people of Lincolnshire the chance to experience the impact of the ceramic poppy sculptures in a range of places of particular First World War resonance. Cllr Nick Worth, executive member for culture and heritage, said: "We're thrilled the poppies are coming to Lincoln Castle. "Next year will mark the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme. Seven Lincolnshire battalions fought there, and having the poppies will be a fitting tribute. The Castle will provide free access for the public to view the work, which will be supported with an educational programme.

The County Chairman is part of the planning team with LCC and fully expects the Legion to be involved in this event but he would request that any Branch which is considering offering support etc. to pass details of what they are considering to the County Office so that it can be coordinated by the County Committee.



'The Wave' in the Tower of London last year

Remembrance



Rippingale's Wartime Heroes

A work still in development is a display in the village of Rippingale to commemorate their war time heroes. It began with a special evening in the Village Hall in November 2014 to tell the stories of the ten names on the War Memorial (and the two which should be on it but aren't). The stories, photographs and records of their lives are fascinating and illustrate how lives and names, simply carved into stone, can be rekindled.

It's taken a lot of work, started by Rosetta Atkinson and Pat Cottam and taken on by Jim Latham and John Warman to assemble the material into the display shown here in St. Andrew's Church, Rippingale. And it never stops – new material is constantly emerging to remind the villagers of the debt they owe to so many young men, who died for them in two World Wars

Stamford sponsor the match ball

Stamford Branch had the honour and privilege of sponsoring the match ball for the derby football match between Stamford AFC and Grantham Town on 24 November. They did this in memory of Mr John Copeland, their late Chairman, who died on 29 October. Stamford Branch enjoys an excellent relationship with Stamford AFC working in friendship and cooperation together for the benefit of the youth and general public of Stamford.

Boston Sleep-in Protest



Ready for a long night of protest

On Armistice Day, following a short Service of Remembrance, members of the Boston Branch set up camp at the Boston War Memorial to take part in an overnight sleep out to raise awareness of the thousands of military veterans who are homeless and sleeping rough. The Branch Chairman, George Reid, had devised this initiative in response to the lack of government support for its Armed Forces. The Royal British Legion was formed to help veterans from the First World War who were homeless and jobless yet, almost 100 years later, there are nearly 10000 veterans on our streets.

The sleep out attracted a lot of media attention, including a 5 minute slot on BBC Look North. Many veterans and supporters also came out to the War Memorial overnight to lend their support



Four of the Boston Six

to the Six - Elaine Wilson (Treasurer), Michelle Houldershaw (Chaplain), Kevin Gash (Branch member, Karl Bates (Vice Chairman), Billy White (Secretary & Standard Bearer), and George Reid. The event was designed to raise awareness of the homeless situation and the fact that the Boston Branch now has a Pop-In Centre at the Boston Body Hub, open every Wednesday 10.00 - 1.00 The event also raised £150 which is to be donated to Centrepoint based in Boston.



Children of Malcolm Sargent School lay their wreaths – photo courtesy of Lee Helling

Armistice Day in Stamford

On Armistice Day Stamford members were joined at the War Memorial by members of the Wildcats Theatre School who sang *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* and children from Malcolm Sargent Primary School and Wilds Lodge School who laid wreaths and a cross



Malcolm Sargent School sing a sweet song about wearing the poppy.

...and in Woodhall Spa



At the request of the local MP Ms Aitken, Nina Gaunt organised and supplied a Wreath for Ms Aitkens' representative to lay at Woodhall Spa Village War Memorial. On Armistice Day the Branch PAO, joined the Branch President Dave Mullenger and Branch Chairman Phil Avery in Royal Square at the 617 Sqadron (Dambusters) Memorial.

Children from the local St Andrews School had written there own poems for the day, and in conjunction with the Cottage Museum, had made a Poppy Wreath. The service at the Memorial for the children was taken by Canon Sally Smithson.

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

Armistice Day

... and in Spilsby

On 11 November the people of Spilsby gathered in the town for the national Two Minutes Silence. Afterwards some Legion members went with the children from the Primary School to the cemetery and laid wreaths on the grave of war dead there. Other members went to Earsby Hall old folks home for a short Service of Remembrance together with wreath laying ceremony.



Aslackby rededicate their War Memorial Clock



The names of the fallen

In 1920 the villagers of Aslackby, between Bourne and Sleaford, elected to install a War Memorial Clock in the south bell opening of the tower of their Church of St James after World War One. It commemorates the men of Aslackby who fell in that conflict. It replaced an earlier clock and the original wooden pulley wheels, replaced in 2008, are still to be seen in the bell chamber.



St James' Church Clock Tower



A tribute by Aslackby children

Following the repair of the west end of the church in 2010 it was decided to repair and refurbish the clock as a commemoration of the centenary of that War. The work was completed with funding by local sponsors – residents of Aslackby, local companies, the Parish Council, and the War Memorials Trust – and on 8 November 2015, the Rev Anna Sorensen, Vicar of St James, led a Service of Rededication of the restored War memorial Clock which, she declared, would now work for another 100 years.

A new Remembrance Plaque in Bourne

Remembrance Day

It was a significant year in Bourne as a new plaque with the names of 37 people who lost their lives during the First World War was dedicated. More than 300 people took part in the parade and the town's dignitaries were joined by young people as wreaths were laid to pay respect.

Royal British Legion branch secretary Jake Jacobs said: "All in all it was a great day to pay our respects to those who gave their lives in service of their country and to all victims of conflict."

Mr Jacobs thanked all those who took part in the parade and who helped raise £22,122 in this year's Poppy Appeal.

Pinchbeck Remembers



The Pinchbeck Branch and Women's Section paraded their Standards through the village on Remembrance Sunday along with other Legion members and youth groups. After the church service and laying of wreaths at the War Memorial the Salute was taken by Flt Lt Hanson of the RAF Police and Branch member, ex-RAF Bomber Command rear gunner, Noel Bellamy. The Parade was followed by a well attended Sunday lunch organised by the Branch,

... as do Woodhall Spa



Two children and a teacher came over to the Woodhall Spa Village War Memorial and joined the Branch President, Chairman, Treasurer and Branch Standard Bearer Steve Hall for the 11 o'clock service, and to lay a wreath they had made. The Branch President thanked the school representatives and children for coming along to the service and the making of the wreath which had been laid.

Lincolnshire – A Winning Team

Standard Bearers Association

The Standard Bearers Association held their AGM at Louth on 11 October. After the voting it was business as usual as the Committee and Officers will all remain the same for another year. Thanks go to all who help in any way with running the Association.

The Chairman commented that the number of Standard Bearers attending events is falling, due in some part to the falling number of Branch standard bearers. This is something that we will be trying to address next year so, if you know of anyone interested in becoming a Bearer, please let us know so that we can encourage them. The AGM was followed by a full dress inspection for the forth coming Remembrance Parades and a short practice session to finish the day.

The main change to the School is a change of venue for the first two meetings in 2016 to the Stanhope Hall in Horncastle (LN9 6NF). It was decided to hold the School in a more central location to try and attract more bearers to attend. The hall is also bigger and so will allow for more variety in the training. Thanks go to Louth and Crowland RBL halls for past services to the school and indeed we may return for some meetings in the future.

So, for next year we need ALL standard bearers of all abilities to attend the school. It is a social afternoon for Bearers and friends to meet. It is not all practicing, but is mostly informal, fun and free, well nearly!!

NEW venue, dates and times for 2016. ALL dates are Sundays.

Please note new start time of 1.30pm

7 February Stanhope Hall 10 April (not 3 April as first advertised) Stanhope Hall

12 June venue to be confirmed 9 October AGM venue to be confirmed.

Joyce Burton Trophy



Georgina's winning entry

by Georgina Nicholson, (Year 5) who received a personal Certificate for her imagination and excellence and the trophy on behalf of her school from Stamford Chairman, Ray Beresford, and Branch President, Steve Bonde.

Each year Stamford Branch invite local schools to compete for the Branch Joyce Burton Trophy. This was donated by their late member, Joyce Burton, to encourage local schoolchildren in projects which would help them to understand the meaning of Remembrance and why we wear the poppy each year.

The theme for 1015 was the 70th anniversary of Victory over Japan in WWII and the entries were of their usual high standard, The best however was submitted



Georgina receiving her certificate

Spilsby Academy Presentation



Mr Ron Worth, President of Spilsby Branch, receiving a cheque on 7 December for £431.60 from the King Edward Academy, Spilsby. This money, the proceeds of a Lest We Forget concert put on by the School, will go into the national Poppy Appeal fund.

Spilsby elect a new Escort to the Standard

Following the resignation of Mr Dennis Blanchard as escort to the Branch Standard, members elected Mrs Barbara Chandler as his successor.

Kitchen Supervisor wanted

Long Sutton County Primary School is looking for someone to cook nutritious meals for pupils in their newly built kitchen. The person should care about young people eating freshly-made, healthy and tasty meals from local produce, have experience in managing catering operations in a similar environment, and can work collaboratively and flexibly and want to be a key member of the staff team providing the best possible lunchtime experience for pupils. The hours are 32.5 hours per week term time only (38 weeks), salary - £21, 530 (Pro Rata), with an anticipated start in February 2016.

All shortlisted candidates will be asked to complete cookery skills, literacy and numeracy tests on Thursday 10 December – venue to be advised. Interviews will then be held at Long Sutton Primary School on Monday 14 December.

An application pack can be obtained from the school website www.longsutton.lincs.sch.uk. Please contact Mrs Tracey Roscher, School Business Manager, if you require any further details:

Tracey.Roscher@longsutton.lincs.sch.uk or call 01406 363381.

The closing date for applications is noon on Friday 4th December. Applications can be returned to the school office at Long Sutton Primary School, Dick Turpin Way, Long Sutton, Spalding, Lincolnshire, PE12 9EP or by email to: Tracey.Roscher@longsutton.lincs.sch.uk.

Long Sutton Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and the above post will be subject to detailed, current references and satisfactory enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check.

Tax Repayment Scam

Wrangle & District Branch have reported a scam which purports to offer the payment of a tax refund. It came as an e-mail, allegedly from the **HMRC Fol Act Team, Room 1C/23, 100 Parliament Street, London, SW1A 2BQ** and invites the recipient to click on to 'Refund' and 'Help' buttons. The only button you should click is **Junk!**

Calling all 59-ers, 1963 - 1971

59 Field Squadron RE 1963 to 1971 are having a re-union at the Holiday Inn, Derby-Nottingham M1 junction 25, Bostocks Lane, Sandiacre, Nottingham, NG3 5NJ on Friday/Saturday, 3/4 June 2016. All members of 59 Field Squadron RE who served between 1963 and 1971 are cordially invited.

Hotel prices, including two breakfasts and two dinners will be: Double room 2 sharing £114/ Single £94:

Ring 01159 210541 and ask for Hannah and say you are booking for the 59 Field Squadron reunion. Any other questions to Peter (Geordie) Coates on 07703274670 or e-mail: coatespeter46@aol.com. More information is also available on Facebook on 58 Field Squadron group where you could find some of your old mates.

Correction

In the article on the Branch Welfare Project – on page 11 of LegionLincs for September-October 2015 – I stated that the total number of cases from Lincolnshire handled by the Area Office in Derby was 41. In fact it was 411. My apologies for this understatement.

Steve Bonde, Editor

Gala Dinner

A note for your diary - City of Lincoln Branch have booked the Lincoln Assembly Rooms for next year's Gala Dinner on Saturday, 15 October. Please let your members know.

The end of the Rauceby War Weekend

Organisers are pulling out of the annual Rauceby War Weekend, one of the Sleaford area's biggest events. Organiser William Elkington made the announcement at the Sleaford Poppy Prom that this year's event had been the last. He said: "We decided to call an end to the show due to it getting bigger – it's getting too much for me. We've had seven good years, we've had no accidents, so I think we've done extremely well and I feel like we're going out on a high. I think it's going to be one of those events that will be remembered fondly for years to come."

The event, which has been held in Rauceby on August Bank Holiday weekend for the past seven years, was an annual festival of wartime re-enactments, fly-pasts and vintage military vehicle displays. The show attracted thousands of visitors each year and raised a total of £53,700 for its three main charities – the Royal British Legion, Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire Air Ambulance and Marie Curie Cancer Care.

Clive Candlin, Chairman of the Sleaford and District Branch of the RBL, said: "We were joined on stage at the Poppy Prom by Bill Elkington who gave us a cheque for £12,000 from the Rauceby War Weekend funds. It's a great shame that it has come to an end, but getting volunteers is becoming more and more difficult. "The £12,000 will go into our funds and it's a great start to this year's Poppy Appeal."

Mesothelioma Campaign Push

The Legion's latest campaign concerns compensation arrangements for veterans diagnosed with Mesothelioma. This is a particularly aggressive form of asbestos-related cancer that attacks the pleura of the lungs. The disease can take decades to materialise but, once diagnosed, most sufferers will live for only one to two years at most. Tragically, it is not uncommon for some sufferers to have just months to live. The Legion's campaigns team urgently needs your support to help raise the profile of this important issue.

Given the disease's association with asbestos, Mesothelioma can afflict a large number of veterans, particularly naval personnel who worked as engineers in the boiler rooms of ships. Over 2,500 naval veterans are projected to die from Mesothelioma before 2047.

A Government scheme, set up in 2014, pays lump sum compensation to civilians who have contracted Mesothelioma and are unable to trace a liable employer or insurance company. The creation of this scheme exposed the fact that, because life expectancy is so short, unmarried or widowed military veterans stand to receive considerably less compensation than their civilian counterparts – as much as £150,000 in some instances. This is because Service personnel and veterans are unable to sue for injuries and illnesses sustained before 1987. The only avenue of redress open to the vast majority of veterans diagnosed with Mesothelioma is the War Pension Scheme, but this cannot award large lump sum payments to veterans diagnosed with 'long tail', terminal illnesses.

The Legion is presently calling on the Government to find a fairer way to compensate these veterans. Current arrangements amount to a clear breach of the Armed Forces Covenant principle of 'no disadvantage due to Service', and as such must be addressed at the earliest opportunity. More particularly, veterans diagnosed with Mesothelioma should be able to choose whether they receive a traditional War Disablement Pension (which can prove generous if the veteran has a surviving spouse to pass their award onto), or a lump sum compensation payment broadly comparable to those awarded under the Government's new scheme.

The vast majority of the Legion's campaigning on this issue has been conducted so far behind the scenes. We have, however, started to raise the public profile of our campaign over the past couple of weeks, notably achieving front page coverage in the *Independent* and featuring on BBC radio. We would be grateful if you could help us in this push by raising awareness of our campaign among local members and volunteers, and by writing to your MP about this issue. Our campaign is currently reaching a critical stage, so any support that you can mobilise would be really helpful.

The easiest way to contact your MP is through the campaign pages of the Legion's website, where you simply need to enter your name and address details for an automatically generated letter to be sent directly to your MP's email inbox. You can access this facility by clicking the boxes [Get involved - Campaign - Asbestos related cancer and the military](#) on the Legion website. Alternatively, the MSO can e-mail a template letter, should you wish to write to your MP by post.

The Legion is delighted to have the support of Seafarers UK, The Forces Pension Society, The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity, The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Widows' Association, Poppyscotland, Legion Scotland, The Royal Naval Engineers' Benevolent Society, and The Royal Naval Association. With your support too, we're confident that we can secure a better deal for veterans diagnosed with Mesothelioma.

East of England Pipe Band

The East of England Pipe Band is recently formed and consists, so far, of four pipers of competition quality, two experienced junior pipers and four junior and three adult learners. They are led by Tom Fleming, a former Scots Guards piper.

They have performed at the Ramsay 1940s Weekend and in the Peterborough Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service. The players are keen to build up their experience in playing in public, both as a pipe and drum band and as individuals, anywhere ranging from Cambridgeshire to mid-Lincolnshire.

Full details of the band and their services are on www.eoe-pipeband.com or by calling Pipe Major Tom Fleming on 01733



Spilsby General Meetings



Mrs Ann Lenton, Branch Social Committee Chairwoman presents a card and gift to the landlord and lady of the Red Lion Spilsby on their retirement.

Following the sale of The Red Lion, Spilsby all future general meetings of the Spilsby & District Branch will now be held on the third Wednesday of the month at The Nelson Butt starting at 19.30hrs. A buffet has been arranged for the December meeting.

It is hoped to have a joint talk in the future with the Wainfleet & District Branch by Mr Tony Banks about Bomber Command. The date to be announced.

County Conference - 9 January 2016

The County Conference is an important event in our Legion Calendar and your support is important. It is an opportunity for your Branch to have their say and express their opinions on current Legion matters. Our guest speaker this year is Bishop Nigel McCulloch who is the RBL National Chaplain.

Whilst we have not received any motions for discussion it is my intention to introduce a short Question and Answer period to enable you to seek answers to anything which is a problem in your Branch. If we cannot answer it on the day we will take it away and find out for you. Therefore a written question prior to the day would be helpful. An important part of the day is the election of new members to the County Committee. This time there are seven candidates for five positions including some who have not stood for election previously. This is a good sign for the County as we need to continue to move forward and new thinking is always welcome.

Please make the effort to attend and support your County. We on the committee can only do what is best when we know what you need. So why not come and tell us? Your support is needed and will be welcomed. The venue is the Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Horncastle.

Kind regards

Tony Goodwin
Chairman

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Mr F Borkowski, Horncastle & District
Mr J P Dale, Mablethorpe
Mr Peter Pavitt, Long Sutton
Mr N G C Ramsey, Kirton & District
Mr Ray Pickup, Woodhall Spa & District
Mr Peter Wilson, Woodhall Spa
Mr Bill Moon, Epworth

Mr David Bunn, Long Sutton
Mr M D Metcalf, Laceby & District
Mr J. Copeland, Stamford
Mr B J Kyte, Holbeach
Mr George Powditch, Sleaford & District
Mr Reginald Dodman, Mablethorpe
Mr K W Ayre, Wainfleet

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

Poppies to the Palace

When I heard that I was selected to take poppies to Buckingham Palace, my first thought was “Who? Me?” I felt very proud and honoured to represent Lincolnshire and felt it reflected the commitment the county has to the Poppy Appeal. As I filled in forms to be security checked for the palace, I was still unsure of what it entailed. All I knew was that I had to be able to stand for two hours and had to be at Haig House at 8 a.m. on Thursday 29th October. It was only nearer the time that I got a time table for the morning.

I was up bright and early on Thursday 29th getting ready and arrived at Haig House in plenty of time. I was met by Chris Cobbold and introduced to Val Leivers from Nottingham, who was the other lady selected from the East Midlands Region to take poppies to the palace. We were given the boxes of poppies for sale at the Palace and three boxes of corsages; two for the Queen and one for the Princess Royal. We had a look in the box which was being delivered to the Duchess of Cambridge just to see what they were like. They are made up of about 4 small poppies, smaller than the usual ones and very pretty.



Val Leivers, Chris Cobbold, & Val Scally

Then it was off to Buckingham Palace. We were taken to a side entrance where Charlotte met us and took us through security and into the palace through the staff entrance. I stayed down near the staff entrance with poppies and poppy pins to sell while Charlotte took Val Leivers up to near a front door. Everyone was very friendly and chatted to me as they bought poppies. The staff came in in casual clothes before changing into uniform in a side room and going on duty.



The two Vals ready for action

After about an hour, Charlotte came back to take me upstairs to change positions with Val. While she had been there, Princess Anne had come to collect her poppies and had chatted to her. The President of China was taking his leave of the Queen at that time so we were allowed to go out to see him and his entourage leave. There were few people passing through that part of the palace to sell poppies to though I did chat to a

Dutch gentleman whose job it was to look after the palace clocks and was in for a busy weekend as the clocks went back on the Sunday morning!

As we were taken through the palace, we were able to see parts that are not open to the public which was very interesting. Along the Household Corridor, we were shown an example of the rooms that had been used by the Chinese President's staff. I had wondered if they would have been housed out of the way but these rooms, off a corridor lined with beautiful Chinese porcelain, were definitely 5 Star!

And so ended our visit to sell poppies at the palace and we returned to Haig House. We were not allowed to take photos in the palace but we had some taken at Haig House before we set off. It was a wonderful experience and I enjoyed every minute though we didn't raise much for the Poppy Appeal! The boxes we took stayed in the palace throughout the Remembrance Period so would probably be well filled when collected.

Valerie Scally
PAO Immingham

PROVISIONAL COUNTY CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2015

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>VENUE</u>
5 December	County Committee Meeting	Alford
9 January 2016	Annual Meeting of County Conference	QEGS Horncastle

The next edition of *LegionLincs* will be a County Conference issue at the end of February. Please let me have your photographs and write-ups of your Christmas and other events and any other (Well, almost!) activities that you get up to – with photographs!! And do, all my readers, have a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous and Healthy New Year. See you in 2016.

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Steve Bonde,
Editor *LegionLincs*