

THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION



THE KNOT UNITES

North Staffordshire RBL



Registered Charity No 219279.

May 2012

Ladies and Gentlemen:

This month's newsletter contains an extract from Part Four – Branches of the Management Handbook. There is a lot of activity in branches in the coming months regarding membership fees and their payment, in addition to the printing of new membership cards in August.

Thank you,

Yours sincerely,

Alan Preece

County Secretary

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Diary of Events

19/20 May 2012 - Annual Conference Scarborough
13 June 2012 - Armed Forces Day
1 July 2012 – AFD Longton Park Trentham
10 July 2012 - County Fundraiser at
Uttoxeter Racecourse
9 September 2012 - Standard Bearer Competition
3 November 2012 – Festival of Remembrance
King's Hall, Stoke
13 January 2013 - County Conference Uttoxeter

Standard Bearer Training The Polish Club, Stafford.

23 May 2012
20 June 2012
18 July 2012
15 August 2012
19 September 2012
17 October 2012
21 November 2012
19 December 2012

Poppy Shop

Using our Poppy Shop is easy. Just browse our online store and make your purchases. You will be asked to register so return shopping is even quicker - just login and make your purchases. Buying from the Poppy Shop provides funding for The Royal British Legion to continue their work helping the Armed Forces family.

www.poppysshop.org.uk 0300 123 9110

Extract from Branch Membership Guide

Key Dates in the Membership Year

March 2012

Branch affiliation fee statements as at 1 March 2012 sent to all cash paying branches. Payment by cheque to be paid to the LMO by 31 March 2012.

DDSP branches notified of any DD rejection and an additional statement sent for payment by cheque to be paid to the LMO by 31 March 2012.

Payment must be made to the LMO only. The back of the cheque should be endorsed with the branch code and branch name. Do not send any cash or cheques to Head Office.

March – April 2012

Request for mid-year printout of Branch members may be submitted to LMO. Listings will be supplied by e-mail.

Listings by email can be obtained from the County Office throughout the year free of charge.

31 March 2012

Last date for payment of Membership fees by cash Branches.

April 2012

List of outstanding Branch Membership fees to CS/MA's.

31 May 2012

Final Date for Replacement Cards to be requested.

15 June 2012

Request and submission of subscription rates for Legion year 2011-2012 of all Branches and Clubs registered for DDSP. Branch and Club Secretaries must return their completed forms to their LMO by 15 July 2012, indicating any changes in their subscription rates.

30 June 2012

Applications made by 30 June will receive a Membership Card that expires 30 September of that Legion year and will be charged the listed membership fee for that year. Members will be further charged their annual membership fee in October and will be sent a new Membership Card for that Legion year. New applicants may request their application be held until 1 August.

1 July 2012

Applications made from 1 July will be charged the annual membership fee for the following year and will receive their Membership Card with an expiration date of October of the following year, resulting in 15 months of Membership.

31 July 2012

Last date for amendment of member details prior to printing of membership cards for the Legion year. Cards are printed in August for delivery to Branches in September. Amendments should still be notified using form MS2 after this date but will not be reflected in the details printed on the membership card or membership listing.

Conversion from cash to DDSP is not possible during renewal. Members who wish to convert will need to pay cash for the current year and register for DDSP for next year.

1 August – 30 September 2012

No transfers between Branches are possible during this period. Normal rules apply from 1 October.



Stone RBL WS Presentation at Sandon Hall

On Thursday 29 March 2012 I was the guest of the Stone RBL Women's Section for a presentation evening at Sandon Hall.

The branch had arranged the evening to make a number of presentations of funds and awards to supporters and beneficiaries alike.

Those present to receive awards and cheques were Mr Hughes, Vice-President of the Burma Star Association; Cpl T Bold, the 'Staffords'; Mr Greg Stanton Legion supporter and fundraiser; Mr Alan Taylor, Stone First Responders.

Having appropriately enough given a moving rendition of the Kohima epitaph Mr Hughes was presented with a cheque for £560, raised by the Stone RBL WS, for which he thanked the branch on behalf of his Association, and in particular their president the Viscount Slim.

Cpl Tristan Bold of the 'Staffords', based at Donnington, was presented with a cheque for £240 by the Stone RBL WS. In addition to thanks for the cheque, which will go to Mercian Regiment Benevolent Funds, he also gave heart-felt thanks to the ladies of the branch, led by Ann Sproston, who had worked so hard to send vast numbers of shoeboxes stuffed with goodies to troops in theatre.

Greg Stanton had raised £500 pound for the RBL WS by making a sponsored walk to the National Memorial Arboretum. As a sign of appreciation the Stone RBL WS in turn presented Greg with a Merit Award.

Mr Alan Taylor received £65 from Stone RBL WS who had raised the sum by the simple expedient of not buying each other Christmas cards, simples!

A very pleasurable evening was rounded off by a buffet and drinks in the library and the excitement of a raffle. The branch officers and committee are to be commended for all their work through the year and then to celebrate it with a memorable social evening.

A report from Warwick 2012

Around 200 volunteers and staff came together at Warwick University in March for the annual Poppy Appeal and Fundraising conference.

The conference brings together Poppy Appeal Organisers (PAO) and County Poppy Appeal Co-ordinators (CPAC) with County Chairmen and community and regional staff to hear updates on the Legion's fundraising activity, exchange views and to get to know people doing similar roles in other regions and countries – with representatives from Ireland, Scotland, Spain and Germany in attendance.

National Chairman John Farmer welcomed the delegates and was delighted to see so many new faces. John also emphasised the importance of staff and volunteers working together.

The conference got off to an outstanding start with a humorous and inspirational account from leading actor, Cassidy Little and creator, Alice Driver from Bravo 22. - the theatre company of wounded, injured and sick Service personnel who staged 'The Two World's of Charlie F' at the Theatre Royal Haymarket in January.

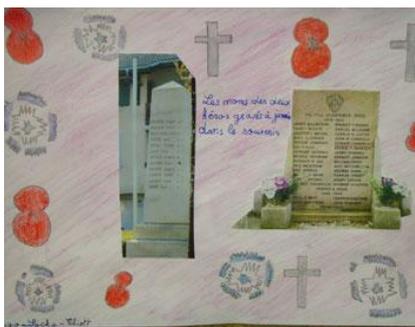
Updates on Legion activity

Director of Fundraising and National Events, Russell Thompson confirmed that the target for raising £90 million had been reached in the 90th year. A summary of how this was achieved would follow, which would be helpful when starting to plan for the 100th anniversary of The Royal British Legion

Delegates then heard updates from the heads of the various Fundraising departments (*click on the links after each name to view their presentation*), Teresa Greener (Events), Sue Smart (Regional Fundraising), and Nick Buckley (Poppy Appeal) with a surprise visit from The Stig. Guy Upward gave an update on Direct Marketing and Michael Dangerfield spoke about his objectives for the new team in Major Donors and Trusts.

Sue Freeth, Director of Health & Welfare and Stephen Butterworth, Assistant Director of Care Services gave us their updates on the welfare strategy with the focus on how the beneficiaries are at the heart of what we do.

Legion's learning resources inspire art project by French schoolchildren



An elementary school in Haute-Savoie has used the Legion's learning resources as inspiration for an art project imagining the war diaries of both a local French soldier and a British soldier from their partner school in Cheshire.

Teacher Elodie Mauger, of the Anthy sur Lemman school on the shores of Lake Geneva, wrote to Helen Hill of the Legion's Learning team to tell her how the Legion's learning resources had helped her pupils in their project.

The project, which was the class' entry to a competition called 'Small artists of memory', imagined a war diary for local soldier Ernest Jacquier, who wrote many letters home to his family while serving but sadly did not return from the conflict. Their school is matched with an English school in Holmes Chapel, Cheshire, so they chose another young soldier from the Holmes Chapel war memorial who also died in 1918.

Elodie writes: "We worked from resources provided by the 'Office national des anciens combattants et victims des guerre' and from our history books, and we also used the free DVD sent by The Royal British Legion. We learned what happened, why there was war, and other information such as the work of women in England in the fields."



The pupils undertook a variety of research including visits to the local memorial, and online research into Ernest Jacquier's service. Together they created a book of art postcards, expressing the emotions of the events in the two soldiers' lives. The work developed several key skills from the curriculum including familiarity with cultural elements from other countries (Britain, Commonwealth, equipment, poppies, place of women in the war etc.) and social and civic competences. The latter included being aware of the dignity of the human person (the sacrifice for freedom) and the duty to respect and Remember.

Elodie concluded: "This project allowed us to learn more about World War One and all that the soldiers experienced. We spent months with the two soldiers and feel we know them, they are part of our class; emotion was strong for us and we hope that we managed to convey to you the portrayal of the war diary made by our class."

Legion Beanie Hats arrive in Helmand



Launched last year in Cheshire to collect together hats knitted by the public for troops in Afghanistan to wear under their helmets. The project attracted much media interest and over 4,000 hats were received.

Cheshire Community Fundraiser Julie Dove is proud to report that the first Legion Beanie Hats have now arrived in Helmand, modelled here by members of 1st Battalion The Royal Welsh, from Dale Barracks in Chester.