



THE KNOT UNITES

North Staffordshire RBL



Registered Charity No 219279.

September 2012

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The issue of new membership cards will be underway now with Cash Cards despatched to branches on 30-31 August, and Direct Debit membership cards to be despatched to members by 7 September.

There will be a lot of information included in the Membership Pack; please take particular note of the Form MS6/12 (Card Return).

Thank you,

Yours sincerely,

Alan Preece

County Secretary

Contact Details:

AT Preece
County Secretary
The Royal British Legion
Haig House
Ferranti Court
Stafford Technology Park
Stafford
ST18 0LQ

Telephone: 01785 226526
Legion Mobile: 07900 058 650
E-mail: apreece@britishlegion.org.uk

Diary of Events

- 9 September 2012
Standard Bearer Competition
- 16 September 2012
Battle of Britain Service Fradley
- 3 November 2012
Festival of Remembrance - King's Hall, Stoke
- 13 January 2013
County Conference - Uttoxeter

Standard Bearer Training The Polish Club, Stafford.

- ~~19 September 2012~~ Cancelled
- 24 October 2012
- 21 November 2012
- 19 December 2012

Remembrance Parades & East Staffordshire LPT

Burton branch have received an email from the local Police regarding this year's Remembrance Parades in their area, and whilst Burton are okay, it would appear that other smaller parades may not be.

If branches have any queries please contact Sergeant Crinson direct, as per the details below:

Sgt 4208 Richard Crinson
East Staffordshire LPT
Burton Police Station x4793
Voicemail 7950 4208

Membership Changes



There are several items concerning Membership which you need to be aware of:-

1. The new MS4/12 is now in circulation, and available from Aylesford. There will be a restriction of **100** per branch, any larger quantity will require authorisation from the Membership Services Manager to help prevent branches from ordering unjustifiable quantities. But please remember to pass any such request through the Stafford County Office.
2. MS4/10 will not be accepted at CDI after 31 December 2012 due to HMRC changes to the Gift Aid declaration that must be implemented as of 1 January 2013. *All previous versions of the MS4 must be destroyed as we will be penalised for using incorrect Gift Aid Declarations from 1 January 2013.*
3. If members paying by Direct Debit do not receive their new membership card by mid-October they should inform their County Secretary as soon as possible who will contact Membership Services. This will provide sufficient time to investigate the problem and issue a new card if necessary. If Membership Services have not been advised by 1 February a new card will not be issued until next renewal; the member will be issued with a proof of membership letter instead. The only exception will be if a member is willing to pay for a new card.
4. On the renewal letter for cash payers the membership card will not be in the top right hand corner, this section of the form will now contain a DD mandate; the renewal card will be further down the letter.

Conman Defrauds the Legion

Further to information sent out in January and February whereby a con-man was doing the rounds of Legion Clubs and Branches in Essex, Norfolk and Cambridgeshire. He has now turned up again in Pitsea Essex and managed to gain money from a Legion member.

The scenario follows a similar pattern or is a variation of the following theme:

- A RBL Club (or branch representative) receives a call from someone purporting to be an Army officer saying that a serving or retired soldier needs assistance from the Legion to re-join his unit or get home
- The 'soldier's' regiment or home location is usually given as Northern Ireland and hence the cost of a flight is involved, as well as transport to get to the airport
- The 'officer' might say that the 'soldier/ex-soldier' has been discharged from hospital
- The 'officer' might say that any money loaned to the soldier/ex-soldier will be reimbursed by his regiment and an additional donation to the Legion Benevolent fund will be made
- The 'soldier/ex-soldier' will later present at the Legion club and put up a very convincing act.
- The 'ex-soldier' presents himself at a funeral directors who then contacts a local Legion person stating that they have a veteran in distress on their premises who need assistance.
- The 'soldier/ex-soldier' contacts caseworkers direct or turns up at Legion Branch premises asking for money

Please make your members aware of this person and not to hand any money over. If you are aware of someone carrying out such frauds please let me know so that I can pass the information onto the Police; or contact the Police directly, and advise me so that I may circulate the information.





The British Legionettes

A Few Words from Lisa Aston - Founder of the British Legionettes

The idea for this calendar was born out of an 11 mile army tab (speed march) which I myself took part in.

Russell Aston, brother-in-law to Lisa, was killed in Iraq while serving with Royal Military Police. This is where the idea came from to honour and pay tribute to ALL Heroes. The 11 mile tab is a dedication to Russell and to ALL fallen Heroes.

A group of girls from all over the country have come together to produce a fantastic calendar to show respect and to honour our soldiers. The Legion need funds all year round not just for November Remembrance.

We aim to raise as much money as possible so the Legion can carry on doing their fantastic work. As part of the development of this Calendar we have met some amazing people who have supported us along the way, also fellow members of the Legionettes who have been amazing and so supportive, a massive thank you to them all.

I have been overwhelmed by the kindness of people and the words spoken about what we are all doing. We are so very proud to do this and most of all we are extremely proud to be honouring all our fallen heroes who have made the ultimate sacrifice in both past and present conflicts.

<http://thebritishlegionettes.co.uk/calender-girls/>

ELECTIONS OF THE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

AND NATIONAL VICE-CHAIRMAN

The respective terms of Office of the current National Chairman and National Vice-Chairman come to an end at the close of Annual Conference 2013.

Their successors are to be elected by the postal votes of Branches.

The procedure for these elections is outlined in the Special Circular 2012 issued to branches, and in Rule 8 of the First Schedule to the Royal Charter and Schedules.



ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The respective terms of Office of three members of the Board of Trustees come to an end at the close of Annual Conference 2013.

Their successors are to be elected by the national postal votes of Branches rather than, as previously, by region.

The procedure for these elections is outlined in the Special Circular 2012 issued to branches, and in Governing Regulation 48 of the Second Schedule to the Royal Charter and Schedules.



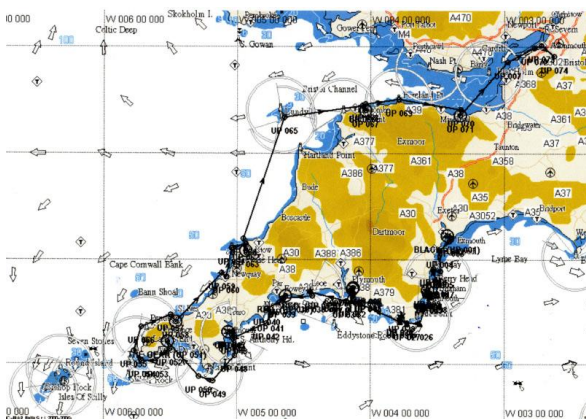
Disabled Servicemen set sail for Poppy Appeal

The 38 foot yacht 'Stenfis' is heading from Exmouth to Bristol under the banner 'Sail4Poppies', accompanied on each leg of its voyage by one injured Serviceman and one fare-paying sponsor, to raise thousands of pounds for the Legion.

The intrepid volunteers left Exmouth on 14 August, and the yacht is due to arrive in Bristol on 23 August after visiting fifteen harbours around Devon, Cornwall and Somerset including Dartmouth, Plymouth Falmouth, Padstow, Ilfracombe and Weston-super-Mare, (see map below).

The crew are members of the Rotary Club of Ottery St Mary, and one is an ex-RAF man. They are determined to promote the work of the Royal British Legion, especially for those servicemen and women who have been injured in the combat operations of recent years.

It is expected that the many summer holidaymakers will give their support by donating generously to the collecting teams provided by members of The Royal British Legion, the 41 Club and the various Rotary Clubs along the route.



The trip is being sponsored, and there'll be collections at the various ports en route. There'll also be a fourth member of the crew on each leg of the journey who's paying for the privilege to raise even more money to help members of the Armed Forces who've been injured in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other recent conflicts.

The opportunity for injured Service personnel to experience a day's sailing on the high seas is judged to be of tremendous help in the process of recuperation.

Two years ago the same club organised a similar venture, 'Sail4Heroes', which raised £20,000 for Service charities.

Find out more on their website:
<http://www.sail4poppies.co.uk/>



Area Meeting at the Battle Back Centre Lilleshall

On 8 August Jane Britton, the new Area Manager, held an area meeting at the Battle Back Centre, Lilleshall. Myself and a number of other County Secretaries were invited to join them for lunch and the afternoon session.

The first item after lunch was a Battle Back overview and tour by Warrant Officer 2 Rob Holt.

Lilleshall National Sports and Conferencing Centre is set in quite spectacular and secluded surroundings, and is a flagship residential training centre and award winning National Centre of Excellence for many of the UK's top sportsmen and women. The Centre is fully open to the general public and provides a base for numerous local sporting clubs and the following activities including: - Squash; Badminton; Archery; Gymnastics; Football and Hockey. Over 30 National Governing Bodies of Sport and similar organisations make regular use of Lilleshall National Sports and Conferencing Centre whilst some have chosen to establish Lilleshall as their home. Current residents include:

- Archery GB
- English Institute of Sport
- The British Gymnastics Association

Lilleshall is also home to the European Institute of Fitness; Lilleshall Sports Injury Rehabilitation Centre, who provide specialist rehab services to both elite athletes and the community alike and the Ministry of Justice Prison Service College of Physical Education.



© 3poD - www.ClipartOI.com/46064

Set within this is the Battle Back Centre, a state of the art facility which will be a national centre of excellence for adaptive sport and adventurous training designed to accelerate physical, psychological and social recovery of wounded, sick and injured Service personnel. The Battle Back Centre represents part of a £50 million commitment by the Legion towards the Defence Recovery Capability.

If branches wish to make donations to the Battle Back Centre (BBC) please send cheques to Mr Stevan Jackson at the Stafford County Office with a brief covering letter saying that the money is for the Battle Back Centre, that way it will go into the BBC restricted fund. Once here I shall forward to Mr Jackson at head office.

The second item was a brief by Ben Upton, the new Lead Admiral Nurse, who explained the new partnership with Dementia UK which is expected to launch on 3 October. The RBL are appointing a team of Admiral Nurses in the region of the West Midlands. This is the first phase of what will be a UK wide roll out of this service to provide support to the carers of people with dementia who are beneficiaries of The Royal British Legion. Admiral Nurses are specialist mental health nurses specialising in dementia. Admiral Nurses work with family carers and people with dementia, in the community and other settings. Working collaboratively with other professionals, Admiral Nurses seek to improve the quality of life for people with dementia and their carers. They use a range of interventions that help people live positively with the condition and develop skills to improve communication and maintain relationships.

Admiral Nurses are named after Joseph Levy who had vascular dementia and was known as Admiral Joe because of his keen interest in sailing.

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

