



THE KNOT UNITES

North Staffordshire RBL



Registered Charity No 219279.

October 2012

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The new membership cards will be with you by now.

Please take particular note of one item in the Form MS6/12 (Card Return):

**LAST DATE FOR RETURN OF UNWANTED CARDS FOR CREDIT
1 February 2013**

Any cards returned after this date will not be credited to your Branch account.

Please ensure sufficient postage is paid for your package. Unpaid/underpaid packages will not be accepted. This in turn will entail the package not arriving on time and the branch not being credited

Thank you,
Alan Preece

County Secretary

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



Diary of Events

- 3 November 2012
Festival of Remembrance - King's Hall, Stoke
- 13 January 2013
County Conference - Uttoxeter

Standard Bearer Training The Polish Club, Stafford.

- 24 October 2012
- 21 November 2012
- 19 December 2012

Remembrance Parades & Your LPT

Following the report last month of Burton branch receiving an email from their local Police regarding this year's Remembrance Parades, Gnosall branch have also been in contact with the Local Policing Team for Stafford Borough.

If branches have any queries about policing in their own area it would be advisable if they contacted the LPT responsible for their area.

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

Branch Accounts - changes to the guidelines

In view of the Membership Council and Audit Committee discussions on the subject, there has been a minor amendment regarding the audit requirements for the accounts:

Branches or Counties/Districts where the turnover exceeded £30,000 but was less than £250,000 are now permitted to request an external Independent Examination (by a Qualified Accountant), rather than a full audit.

As a result, the guidelines and the letter that will have been sent to all Treasurers have been updated.



Youth Members at 18

The question has been asked, ‘Are we capable of automatically turning [youth membership] into full membership or do [youth members] have to fill in a new form and start again?’

The answer came, ‘In the run up to annual renewal [Membership Services] do a search on Pro2000 for all Youth members who have turned 18 since the previous years annual renewal and convert them to being full members, as cash payers.

It is then up to the Branch to discuss with the individual whether or not they want to continue their Legion membership as a full member.



Battle of Britain Service at St Stephen’s Fradley

Alrewas branch organised their annual Battle of Britain Service at St Stephen’s Church, Fradley, on Sunday 16 September at 3 pm. As a former RAF Armourer I was very pleased to accept the offer to attend the service.

The service was well attended, but sadly many of us were in our twilight years rather than at the dawn. Equally disappointing was that there were only two Legion standards, Alrewas and Yoxall.

There was however an excellent turn out by 1206 Squadron Air Training Corps, who also provided the band and a standard bearer. The squadron’s Officer Commanding, Flight Lieutenant Chris Kelly, also took part in the service giving his ‘Reflections’ on the Battle of Britain.

There was also a considerable presence from local civic dignitaries, which was very gratifying.

The service was taken by Professor the Reverend Adrian Low, who was able to inform us that we had a special guest that day.

Alan Kitchen, from Gloucester, had been visiting the National Memorial Arboretum when he became aware that there was a Battle of Britain service at Fradley. Alan had undertaken training at RAF Lichfield before posting to Bomber Command.

Following the service wreaths were laid first on the graves of Airmen in the church graveyard and then at the Air Force Memorial nearby.

With all ceremony carried out we enjoyed some light refreshment in the Fradley Village Hall.



The New Financial Year

The new Field Financial Year will be implemented starting 1 October 2012. This means that the Financial Year for Counties/Districts and Branches next year will be only nine months and will end on 30 June 2013.

Returns from both Branches and Counties must be submitted within three months of the close of the Financial Year.

This means that Branch Accounts and R&Ps must be returned prior to having been adopted by the AGM, as the AGM and Conference dates will not change but remain in line with the corporate Financial Year.

Membership Application - MS4/12

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.

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.

The contact details for ordering the MS4/12 are as follows:

Nicola Wren nwren@britishlegion.org.uk
01622 794273

Or

Phyl Summers PSummers@britishlegion.org.uk
01622 795801

Arboretum commemorates those who died in Service during 2011

An annual Service of Commemoration, at which the names of those members of the Armed Forces who died in Service during 2011 are added to the Armed Forces Memorial, took place at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire on 1 September).

The private service for families, friends and colleagues, was held within the walls of the iconic Memorial, and was led by Bishop John Kirkham, former Bishop to the Armed Forces.

During the service, tribute was paid to each of the 59 members of UK Armed Forces whose names have been recently engraved on the Memorial's Portland Stone walls. Their names were read aloud by the Principle Personnel Officers of the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force. Families were then invited to lay wreaths next to the wall of the Memorial where the 2011 names are inscribed.

The engraver, Nick Hindle, added the 59 new names (10 x Royal Navy, 45 x Army and 4 x Royal Air Force) during April and May this year.

The National Memorial Arboretum is the UK's year-round centre of Remembrance; a spiritually uplifting place which honours the fallen, recognises service and sacrifice, and fosters pride in our country.

The Armed Forces Memorial, dedicated in the presence of Her Majesty The Queen in 2007, is the UK's tribute to the 16,000 men and women who have been killed on duty or as a result of terrorist action since 1948.

