



July 2012

Message from the President

Hello – Happy New Year and welcome to our new format Newsletter.

First of all let me say that I'm honoured to have been nominated and selected to be the new President of our local Branch, I'm an ex-serviceman and local lad – a time for me to try and make a difference.

The committee are working hard on your behalf to first of all increase the membership and then get a social programme of events going to keep you all interested.

One great piece of news from the old year was the fantastic effort made by Jeff Turner as the new Poppy Appeal organiser. Thrown in at the deep end but with guidance from Sylvia Nicholson he and his team of collectors and counters managed to pull in over £23,000, a great effort in these recessionary times. The final total is still to be confirmed – watch this space.

One way we are trying to bring the branch up to date is by using modern technology to communicate our message to members. We ask that if you have an email address could you please let us have it (pop it in to the York Hotel anytime) – we can get info out to you much quicker that way.

I have been impressed in my first weeks in the appointment to have seen the work of the Welfare team close up as a case was dealt with quickly and smoothly over the Christmas period. I think the needy ex-serviceman now believes in Santa Claus!

So – we go on into a New Year, I'm sure it will be eventful and we will let you all know of happenings through this Newsletter. Please contribute to it if you have an opinion or an idea for an article. It's your Branch – make the most of it.

All the Best

Mike Dennison

New President Inaugurated



Mike Dennison receives the Presidents "Jewel" from Branch Vice Chair Maree Brown at The Platform before the Annual Remembrance Parade last November.

First Members Meeting Announced

It was agreed at the 1st committee meeting of the year on 8th Jan that a members meeting would be held on Sat 31st March at 2pm at the Branch HQ in the York Hotel.

It will not only be a chance for members to meet up with the committee but for prospective new members to come along and join the fold.

After the meeting there will be a chance for members to check out the up to date benefits of being in the branch as officers will display the latest information available.

There will be a free light buffet for those attending and cask ales will be priced at £2 a pint for all members.

If you are attending could you please inform any of the Legion Committee using the numbers listed below.

Your opinion counts and one item on the agenda will be your chance to steer the social side of the Branch. Get your thinking caps on now and we hope to see you all in March.

Contact Us

Mike Dennison – President – 01524425353

Maree Brown – Vice Chair – 01524824845

Les Croombs – Membership & Welfare - 07766790538

Jeff Turner – Poppy Appeal - 01524414938

Can you spare some time during Oct/Nov – contact Jeff Turner if you would like to help the Poppy Appeal as either a Poppy seller or money counter – or both!!!!



DIARY DATES

The following events have been/are being planned. Please make a note of them in your diary, so you can come along and if you pass on the word to your friends, they can join in too.

5th August 2012. Heysham Classic Car & Bike Show

11th August 2012. Open Forum/Members Meeting from 2-00pm.

28th April 2012. ANZAC Day Commemorative Service at Torrisholme Cemetery at 12-00am.

27th May 2012. Proposed Coach Trip to the National Memorial Arboretum. Please contact Les Croombs if you're interested/to book your seats.

3rd to 5th June 2012. Queen's Jubilee Celebration. Garden Party at the York Hotel (Details will be published later in the Spring).

30th June 2012. RAFA Armed Forces Day Service. St Barnabas Church..

Just in case any of you missed the article regarding the Seeds for Soldiers Campaign in the "Visitor" newspaper, it is reproduced below. If you wish to support the campaign, details of how you can do this are at the end of the article.

Sowing the seeds

Help soldiers grow plants while on tour overseas

by Greg Lambert

A NEW campaign has been launched to help our armed forces serve in more pleasant surroundings.

"Seeds for Soldiers" wants donations of seeds for our servicemen and women to grow plants to help them unwind while they fight overseas.

This is a joint venture by Morecambe In Bloom and the Royal British Legion.

"Our British soldiers serving with the Task Force Helmund in Afghanistan are enduring bleak and dangerous conditions, with 18 hour working days not unusual," said Beryl Spelling from Morecambe In Bloom.

"The servicemen and women from the Lashkar base have now got the beginnings of a garden within their headquarters compound in which to relax.

"It is a reminder of home



Morecambe In Bloom chairman, Beryl Spelling, right, and president of the Royal British Legion Morecambe and Heysham Branch, Mick Dennison with ex-Army Captain Darren Clifford and Jean Yates who used to be in the RAF at the launch of Seeds for Soldiers.
Picture: NIGEL SLATER

and helps them to unwind and recharge their batteries.

"The availability of certain things is scarce so they would like some help to build on what they have already started.

"There is a need for seeds that will grow in warmer conditions and also for small garden tools along with small packets of fertilisers."

If you would like to help to make the garden a bet-

ter place for our dedicated servicemen and women you can send a parcel to: Private Gardener, Media Ops, Task Force Helmund, OP Herrick, BFPO 715. It will be free to send if no heavier than 2kg.