



We will remember them

Welcome from the new Chairman - Brian Hargrave



Greetings to all the members in the Greater London District. My name is Brian Hargrave and I have been elected to serve as your chairman for the next three years. I have built up a lot of experience of the Legion and its work over the last 30+ years that I have been a member. I have also gained experience of business administration through many years as a manager with British Telecom. I hope that this experience can be put to good use as the GLD chairman in serving you and the London ex-service community.

First of all I must congratulate Martin Forde for his stewardship in forming the District from the ground up. A lot of hard work has gone into forming the District from the four legacy counties, not the least in combining the accounts and budgets, and we all must thank Ray Harris (District Treasurer) for his diligent work in carrying that out.

As the first elected chairman of the GLD, I am looking forward to working with the Committee and the London branches in tackling the challenges facing the District over the next three years. These challenges include the reorganisation of the Legion membership administration structure, with the appointment of a permanent Area Manager and the evolution of the Area offices, plus the implementation of the “Pathway to Growth” initiative.

Amongst my aims as your chairman, is a drive to make the Greater London District more inclusive, with equal involvement in the centre from all of the legacy county areas. I also hope to see the District emerge as a centre of excellence and an inspiration to the rest of the Legion. However, nothing can be achieved without you; the hard working members of the Legion. We have the talent here in London and it is up to all of us to use these talents for the betterment of the serving and ex-service community. Remember: *People can be divided into three groups: Those who make things happen, those who watch things happen, and those who wonder what happened.* Let us all strive to be in the first group.

Until the next issue have a peaceful and Happy Easter.



Conference AGM

On 12 January 2013 the Greater London District held its very first Conference AGM at the Southgate Branch.

On the day there was a good turn out with various delegates, members and guests in attendance.



The Conference top table was headed up by Interim Chairman Martin Forde who was stepping down for the Chairman elect – Brian Hargrave to take up position as the first Greater London District Chairman for the next three years. Martin was presented with a District Award for his work leading the GLD through its first and at times difficult year.



L-R: Reg Pinney, Ray Harris, Mick McManus, Alan Ronaldson, Martin Forde, Steve Newson

Customary opening ceremonies kicked off the proceedings for an all day affair of annual reporting, networking, voting of District officials and award presentations.

All branches should have now received the Draft Conference Minutes with the Corporate Keynote speech attached. The speech outlines key proposals to the Royal charter that will be presented to National conference in May, the content of the speech should be cascaded to all branch officials and members. It is important that we communicate properly and that branches deal properly with correspondence. At the District Conference the issue over spoilt ballot papers was raised as out of the 91 branches only 41 branches for

the new chairman, and of those, 25 of the votes were declared invalid (however this would not have altered the outcome had they been counted). There were a number of reasons for this mainly due to branches not following the voting instructions properly. Branches must try to do better, and the GLD Committee will be looking at ways to help bring this about. At the first GLD Committee Meeting following the AGM it was felt that there was not enough representation and involvement from the SE region of the District.

Thank You

A fantastic buffet lunch was provided by the Southgate club free of charge to the District and the catering was organised by Mrs J Pinney the Branch Secretary and assisted by various members and volunteers.



L-R: Janet Atkinson, Flo Allen, Lidia Gill

National Conference - Wales

Branch Delegates

All delegates wishing to attend National Conference in Wales 2013 are expected to arrange their own travel and accommodation via the branch. National Events will issue a list nearer the time of hotels in the area however they do not negotiate special discount rates for the Legion nor do they reserve rooms as block bookings for Legion members. A circular from the Director General's office was sent in October to all branches with some initial Accommodation information.

National Chairman Election

One nomination for Chairman was received by the closing date. It was for the current Vice-Chairman, John Crisford, and accordingly he is deemed elected Chairman to take effect from the close of Annual Conference 2013. The following nominations for Vice-Chairman were

received by the closing date so a postal ballot for that Office is to be held:

- Major Una Cleminson TD RGN.
- Denise Edgar
- Anthony R P Goodwin, BEM
- William Parkin
- Terence W Whittles

The new Vice-Chairman is to be elected by the postal votes of Branches in the prepaid envelope to arrive by no later than 5 pm on Tuesday 2 April 2013. Branches to receive full details in a circular from Head Office. All members will be updated in the Legion March/April magazine.

Application Forms

By the amount of membership applications forms that are being completed on the discontinued MS4 or MEM20 forms it is apparent that District information is not cascaded to all branch officials.

Communication is key to running your branch efficiently and cost effectively. All previous versions of application forms are returned to the branch to redo if they are not on the MS4/12 form. The new form can be downloaded from the internet and photocopied.

<http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/media/7916/rbl-membershipform.pdf>

Branch Accounts

All branch Accounts should have been returned to the District Secretary (Sarah Stephenson) at Haig House by 31 December 2012. This can be a daunting task for some so understandably there are late returns. By now they should all have been completed and returned however there is a significant amount still outstanding. A reminder letter was sent out in January chasing for these and if you have not yet responded to this with an explanation as to why it is late you need to do this before 1 March 2013. There is no requirement to send in 3 copies of the documentation as in the past – one set will do as everything is scanned and stored electronically. All late returns do incur penalties such as branches not being able to send a delegate to conference or being allocated Festival of Remembrance Tickets.

District Awards

Congratulations to dedicated Legion members James Gazzard and Charles Docherty.



James Gazzard of the Sunbury on Thames Branch receiving the Greater London District Award at the GLD Conference in January 2013.



Bridie Docherty on behalf of Charles Docherty from the Greenford Branch – receiving his Greater London District Award at the GLD Conference in January 2013

Battle of the Atlantic 70th Anniversary

The Battle of the Atlantic was the longest continuous military campaign of WWII and resulted in the loss of some 30-40,000 Merchant Navy personnel and around 5000 ships. The turning point in the campaign for the Allies was May 1943 when German submarine losses became unsustainable. To mark the 70th anniversary of this historic event, the Royal Navy, supported by representatives from the Merchant Navy and other maritime organisations, is holding a series of events across the UK during May 2013.



USCGC Spencer sinks U175 with depth charges in April 1943

The main focus of activity will be Liverpool, although there will be a number of events elsewhere, including London and Londonderry.

Outline of Planned Events in 2013 for BoA70

London Events

- 3 RN warship visits
- 16 Mar • Bletchley Park – BoA and the role of intelligence. Follow link <http://www.bletchleypark.org.uk>
- 8 May BoA70 Themed Evensong St Paul's Cathedral.
- 9 May BoA70 Charity Fundraising Dinner onboard RN warship and Fleet Air Arm Flypast
- 10 May Memorial Service at Merchant Navy Memorial in Trinity Square Gardens.
- 12 May Ships are open to the public – Free Entry

<http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/Battle-of-the-Atlantic>



Atlantic convoy 1942

Images by kind permission of <http://www.historyplace.com>

Battle of Britain Bunker, RAF Uxbridge –

Open from Easter Weekend for 3 months

From the Easter weekend the RAF plan to open for the first time the Battle of Britain Bunker at RAF Uxbridge at weekends. Following the successful Heritage Open Days weekend last September visitors will be able to turn up without an appointment and have an unescorted visit to the plotting room and museum areas.

Admissions will be between 10am and 4pm and donations will be appreciated. This will be for a trial period of three months from the weekend of 23-24 March. Weekday guided tours can be booked as normal by contacting the Curator on 01895 251303. Access to the Bunker is via Vine Lane turning off into St Andrew's Road.



VC Ceremony - Golders Green Crematorium

A ceremony to unveil a plaque to honour those awarded the Victoria Cross who were cremated at Golders Green Crematorium, will be held on **Sunday 7th April at 2.00 pm**. The plaque is to be mounted to the side of the war memorial. The 14 who were awarded the VC are listed as follows:-



1. Lieutenant General Sir Fenton John Aylmer, VC, KCB.
2. Major The Viscount Alexander Edward Murray Fincastle VC, DSO, MVO, DL.
3. Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Colclough Watson VC.
4. Colonel Edward Douglas Brown-Syngé-Hutchinson, VC, CB
5. Corporal James Upton VC.
6. Brigadier The Rt.Hon. Sir John George Smyth Bt. VC,MC.
7. Lieutenant Leonard Maurice Keysor VC.
8. Lieutenant Colonel William John Penn-Symons VC, OBE.
9. Rear Admiral The Hon. Edward Barry Stewart Bingham VC, OBE.
10. Lieutenant Commander Percy Thompson Dean VC.
11. Major James Palmer Huffam VC.
12. Lieutenant Colonel Sir Brett Cloutman VC, MC.
13. Corporal Arthur Percy Sullivan VC.
14. Major Parkash Singh VC

Stan Heath the District Ceremonial official is assisting the Nottingham organisation <http://www.nottinghamshire-victoria-cross-memorial.org.uk/> who have invited standard Bearers from the Royal British Legion and members to attend the ceremony. One of those cremated at the cemetery originated from Nottingham hence the organisations involvement with co-ordinating the event.



Golders Green Crematorium

War Graves Commission Grants

At the GLD Conference concern was raised as to the upkeep of War Graves and funding available for this. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission uses a number of methods to ensure that the war graves in the UK are maintained one of which is to award individuals or groups like the RBL a maintenance contract agreement to do so. In some instances it is not necessary to pay for additional maintenance as the usual maintenance provider within the site is providing a standard to the war graves which is acceptable. Additionally, CWGC teams visit all sites in the UK on an approximate 2 year cycle to clean war grave headstones and they are inspected by their Regional Supervisors on a 3 year cycle. If a Supervisor identifies a need for additional maintenance during his inspections then a maintenance holder would be sought.

Remembrance Parade logistics Survey

The Legion is looking at issues directly associated with Parades and Marches. If you feel any of these questions below apply to your branch please respond by 19th March 2013 to the District Secretary in writing or email, details at the end of this New sletter.

1. Have you experienced problems securing road closures and/or adequate policing for Remembrance parades?
2. What were the specific issues, e.g. Cost or specific legal problems?
3. Were you asked to pay for road closures and/or policing?

4. If so, by whom, e.g. police or local authority?
5. Do you think that there is a general perception by the police and local authorities that the Legion is actually responsible for managing Remembrance parades?

Non endorsed - Branded Goods

After an internal investigation following an enquiry from a Trading Standards Officer from the London Borough of Redbridge Trading Standards, it became clear that a number of Poppy branded products being sold via the website www.sportingkicks.co.uk products were not produced by, with the consent of, under the authority of, or on behalf of TRBL, nor were they in conformity with any type approved by the Legion. RBL were under the impression that the items in question had been seized. However, we will now contact the local Trading Standard's Officer and find out what has happened to the case and notify them that the company is still selling pin badges with our Poppy emblem. We urge you NOT to purchase or support this company by way of buying/obtaining their Legion branded goods.

Staff Re-Structuring

With the Pathways for Growth Strategy marching steady into Phase 2, Phase 1 is now seeing those changes implemented with field staff now incorporated into operations. The London Area Manager post has been filled by the appointment of Ryan Allain to the role.

The District Secretary role will be line managed by the Area Manager. Ryan will be attending the District Committee Meeting in March as part of his induction to Membership and a view to working closely with Brian Hargrave, District Chairman.

Welcome from Ryan

Hello, please allow me to introduce myself. I am Ryan Allain the new Area Manager for London. These are exciting times for The Royal British Legion and I am excited about the prospects for the future of the organisation.

As you know, we are now in Phase 2 of the Pathway for Growth programme. The new Area Plans have been presented to staff for consultation until the 11th of March with a view to finalising the document end of March.

The biggest reason for the Pathway for Growth is to ensure the beneficiaries are at the heart of everything the Legion does. There has been so much change in the charity world to include technological advances that we need to look at different ways to engage with those we serve. This includes use of the new Contact Centre, having online resources as well as having a store front styled Area Office. Another big change is that the new staff team will have a strong focus on outreach work. The plans are to work directly at the local Armed Forces units and bases as well as going to local branches and providing outreach to members.

Volunteers have always played an important role in the work the Legion does, as Caseworkers, working on the hugely important Poppy Appeal and in serving on the Membership Committees. As members of the Greater London District's Membership Committee the most tangible change you will see is the District Secretary becoming part of the London Area Team. That means Sarah Stephenson will work closely with the Welfare Team and I will be her new line manager.

In my role as Area Manager, I will also be working with the new District Chairman, Brian Hargrave, and together we will work toward a clearer direction in how to achieve the organisational objectives. With having Sarah as part of the Area Team we will be better able to co-ordinate efforts for the benefit of our beneficiaries and our Membership.

I look forward to meeting each of you and working positively on behalf of our beneficiaries.

Shoulder to Shoulder With All Who Serve,

Ryan A Allain

Ryan A. Allain, MPA MCMI



Winners for the Standard Bearers Competition 2013

The Standard Bearers Competition organised by Mr Reg Burton GLD Parade Marshall and Mr Stan Heath GLD Ceremonial Officer was held at Kneller Hall Twickenham on **2 February 2013**.

Winners



L-R: Liam Doyle, Michael Foster, Rita Orange, Jeff McHenry

Judges



L-R: Miss Marie Taylor, Reg Burton, David Brown

District Winners			
Rank	Name	Score	Branch
1 st	Michael Foster	204	Richmond
2 nd	Jeff McHenry	164	Eastern Enfield
Deputy Branch SB			
1 st	Liam Doyle	191	Richmond
Women's Section			
1 st	Rita Orange (SW)	198	Heston

Standard Bearers Training Dates – Spring 2013

- March - 13, 20, 27
- April – 17, 24
- May – 01, 08, 15

All sessions start at 18:30hrs. No need to book - just turn up with Standard, sling and gloves.

Address: The Royal Star & Garter Homes, Richmond Hill, Richmond, Surrey, TW10 6RR

National Youth Standard Bearer Competition

Sunday 14th April 1.30pm - Bulwell, Nottingham

The competition is to be held at the

TA Centre
Hucknall Lane
Bulwell
Nottingham NG6 8AQ

If you are aged 14-16 years and wish to take part send your details to **Kayleigh McFeeters** - Membership Support Officer Email: KMcfeters@britishlegion.org.uk or send to K. McFeeters, Haig House, 199 Borough High Street, London, SE1 1AA

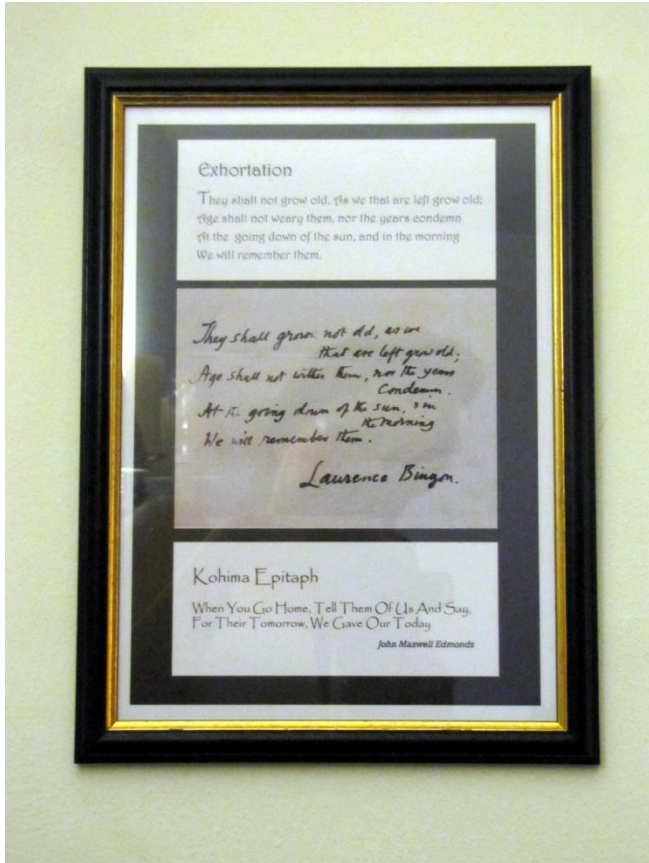
John Farmer, the National Chairman, has confirmed his attendance at the competition.



Members only Quotation Competition - 31 March Closing date

3 framed pictures to be won of The Original Exhortation Poem

There is still time to enter the competition if you hurry and get online to find the quotations published in the Newsletters.



The original poem written by Lawrence Binyon is held at Haig House and has been photographed here along with the version of the verse as we know it. Also the Kohima Epitaph is included to make the picture complete. In this smart framed picture they are brought together for you to win. Encourage your branch members to enter the competition with a view to raffling the picture or donating it to the branch.

How to win

In the 4 Newsletters April, July, October December 2012 issues, there are 4 quotations (all are archived on the website at <http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/counties/great-er-london/london-membership/london-new-ssletter>). Write down all 4 quotations on the entry form that can be found on the District website.

<http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/counties/great-er-london/london-membership/competition>

And email to sstephenson@britishlegion.org.uk

Note this is an online communication improvement incentive and is open to all members of the Greater London District (except staff and District officials). It is not necessary to enter via the Branch system. Entries via email only will be accepted. Closing date for all entries 31 March 2013. Three winners will be notified in April 2013.

Buckhurst Hill and Binyon

Most are familiar with the words of the Exhortation, but how many know their Buckhurst Hill connection? They were written by Laurence Binyon as part of a poem "For the Fallen", extracts of which were set to music by Edward Elgar. Binyon (1869—1943) was of Quaker stock and the son of an Anglican clergyman. Binyon was educated at St Paul's School and Trinity College, Oxford. From 1893 to 1933 he worked at the British Museum, becoming Keeper of Oriental Prints and Paintings.

In 1904 he married Cicely Margaret Powell, niece of Nathanael Powell of Luctons House, Buckhurst Hill. Nathanael Powell's daughters were all present at the wedding. The Binyons had three daughters, the youngest of whom was born in 1911.

At the outset of the Great War in 1914 Binyon, convinced of the justness of the war, but unable to join the army because of his age (45 years old) and his Quaker principles, became a stretcher bearer or volunteer orderly in France with the Red Cross. For his work in caring for the wounded and dying he was awarded the French decoration of Chevalier of the Legion d'Honneur. In 1918, after the war, he returned to his work at the British Museum. He as an influential art and literary critic and in 1933 was appointed Professor of Poetry at Harvard, a post he left after only two. He was awarded honorary doctorates from both Oxford and Glasgow Universities and was made a Companion of Honour in 1929.

Binyon, with his wife Cicely, was a frequent visitor to his wife's Buckhurst Hill cousins who then lived at *Southfleet* and *Hawstead*, both grand houses near to the *Roebuck* (all of which have now been demolished).



Greater London District Committee

District Chairman: Brian Hargrave
Vice Chair: Steve New son
Treasurer: Joanne Stevens
Phil Beckinsale
Penny Bell-Wright DRO (West)
Bryan Binning
Stan Bonner PAC (East)
Irene Brockey
Robert Cantwell
George Dryburgh
Griff Griffin
Ray Harris
Jim Lowther
Syed Mahmood
Reginald Pinney DRO (East)
Robert Richier DTO
Jack Weedon

By Appointment

Standard Bearer: Michael Foster
Ceremonial Officer: Stan Heath
Parade Marshal: Reg Burton

Janet Salter RBL WS, Metropolitan Central Committee Rep
District Secretary: Sarah Stephenson sstephenson@britishlegion.org.uk
Tel 020 3207 2484,
Haig House, 199 Borough High Street, London SE1 1AA
Website: <http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/counties/greater-london>

Royal Charter Version 7

Objectives

3. (a) to relieve need and to further the education of beneficiaries and their spouses, children and dependants;
- (b) to relieve need and protect the mental and emotional health of the spouses, children, dependants and immediate family members of beneficiaries who have died or been severely injured;
- (c) to relieve suffering, hardship and distress to spouses, children and dependants caused by the absence of those serving in the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force on Regular, Reserve or Auxiliary engagements;
- (d) to promote and support schemes for the resettlement, rehabilitation, retraining and sheltered employment, of beneficiaries and their spouses, children and dependants;
- (e) to promote public benefit by the commemoration of those who have died whilst on active service with the Armed Forces of the United Kingdom