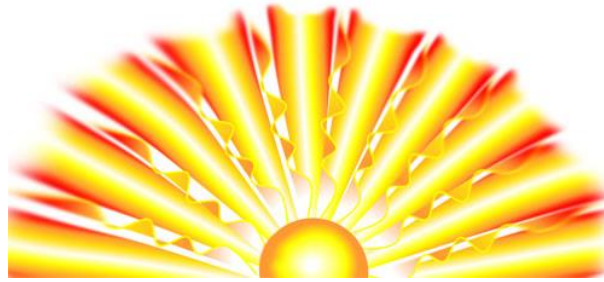




GREATER LONDON DISTRICT Newsletter

June 2015



We will remember them

VE Day 70th Anniversary

Horse Guards' Parade was a hive of activity for the 2 day VE Day celebrations on Saturday and Sunday 9-10 May, when Live Nation and BBC, in partnership with The Royal British Legion hosted **VE Day 70: A Party to Remember**, a star-studded concert featuring a spectacular line-up including some of the biggest recording artists, performers, stars and celebrities in live entertainment. The concert big screens were left overnight for visitors to watch the Sunday Westminster Service and parade past the Cenotaph. As WW2 Veterans entered into Horse Guards the crowd stood to cheer them as Prince Charles took the salute. Followed



by a flypast comprising, a Lancaster bomber, Spitfire and Hurricane, and the Red Arrows leaving a red, white and blue trail. As the WW2 Veterans made their way to the luncheon in St James' Park, held in their honour, the public cheered and applauded them all the way into the marquee. Entertainment from the RAF and Central Band, playing Big Band hits of the 40s in the garden area and singers and dancers in period clothing in the marquee tents. Each guest received their lunch in a ration box, which also contained a golden commemorative VE Day 70 medal. HRH Prince Charles and Camilla and David Cameron circulated amongst the guests in the marquee, talking informally to the veterans. In St James' Park which was accessible for members of the general public, vintage WW2 military vehicles were on display along with a Spitfire and Hawker Hurricane. As veterans intermittently departed, again the public cheered them for all they had done for their Country. Veterans were the celebrities of the day with requests to pose for photos with guests



and public throughout the UK at various VE Day celebrations. Mr James Ronald Fisher right, carried the RBL Penketh Legion Standard for 36 years from 1947. He, along with other Veterans, were overwhelmed with 'VE Day 70' events and staff had to remind them it was not for them to thank the Legion; this was the Nation saying "Thank you!" to them.





To read memories of VE Day stories and photos see <http://www.veday.org.uk/>

And a good time was had by all.

LIVE ON TO THE MEMORY OF THE FALLEN AND THE FUTURE OF THE LIVING

Leytonstone Branch - Upping TRBL Profile

VE Day Parade & Celebration, 9 May 2015

Leytonstone has upped it's game over the past few months by engaging proactively with the local community. Following the 9 May VE Day Parade celebrations, several press articles were released online.

Guests in attendance were: The Mayor of Waltham Forest Terry Wheeler; Pearly Kings and Queens, Chelsea Pensioners and a regiment of drummers. Entertainment continued all afternoon into the evening with a singalong of wartime songs led by the Pearly Kings and Queens.

Just Google 'Leytonstone Legion VE Day' for a selection of press releases and photos.

St Edmund's Catholic Primary School for WW1 Commemorative Performance



On 20 March 2015 Members of the Royal British Legion (Leytonstone) were invited to St Edmund's Catholic Primary School in Lower Edmonton to watch - and take part in a performance to mark the centenary of World War One. This was a multi-sensory tribute to the Fallen, presented by over 40 children in Years 5 and 6, told through music, poetry, songs, dance, images and cake!

The audience of families, staff, governors and the representatives of the Legion were greatly impressed by the children's poignant performance. Head teacher, Mrs Margaret Hanley said, "It was heart-tugging and perfect in every respect, beautifully constructed and executed."

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Alan Calder, Chairman of Leytonstone Branch said that they had been slightly worried when the invitation mentioned "Trench Cake" but that they had been pleasantly surprised by the cakes, made to an authentic 1917 recipe by members of St Edmund's staff, which were served during the intermission.

Donations for refreshments and RBL souvenirs raised £120 for The Royal British Legion.



Pupil reading poetry

After a moving Act of Remembrance led by The Royal British Legion, the evening ended with a sing-along of wartime songs which literally had some members of the audience dancing in the aisles.



Authentic Images from WW1 were projected onto a big screen

This coordinated approach just goes to show how local Branches can engage with schools as custodians of Remembrance and perpetuate to our younger generation the importance of honouring those that have lost their lives in the name of Queen and Country.



Leytonstone Branch with staff members

Laying up of the 4 Met Standards

On 21 March 2015, the 4 Metropolitan County Standards were laid to rest after having served their time for the Legion. Numerous Branch



Standards were in attendance to show their final respects to the SE, SW, NE and NW London Counties. Reg Burton as Parade Marshal formed up the Standard Bearers while GLD Officers closed off Borough High Street. As they were piped to the Church from Haig House to St George the Martyr, the public were treated to a spectacular display of Royal British Legion Standards and Standard Bearers. The Laying Up Church Ceremony and Service was led by Father Jonathan Sedgwick, Priest in Charge, and was followed by a reception in the Church function rooms. John Crisford - National Chairman, was also in attendance along with GLD Officers and Legion Members.

Right: St George the Martyr's Italianate styled ceiling installed in 1897, by Basil Champneys.



Many fed back they enjoyed seeing and catching up with many Member colleagues, they hadn't seen in a long while. Although it is always sad to see a Standard laid up, for any Members visiting TRBL Head Office or the London Pop In Centre at Haig House, those wishing to view the Metropolitan Standards will find St George the Martyr is only a 2 minute walk away and open most days.

Chiltern Railways WW1 Rededication

On Thursday 16 April 2015 at Marylebone Station, Chiltern Railways held the Rededication Service for 3 of their WW1 Memorials in Memory of 43 members of the Great Central Railway staff who made the supreme sacrifice in WW1. Royal British Legion Standards were in attendance along with the 7 Rifles and The London Regiment. Relatives of those named on the Memorials had been invited as guests to attend the Service and reception.



L-R Standard Bearers: Mr M Foster - GLD; Mr J McHenry - Eastern Enfield, Mr T Hubble -St Georges, Mr J Page - Romford.

Tim Fox-Godden is an illustrator specialising in drawing scenes from the Great War and also a relative of one of the railwaymen named on the Memorial. His drawings in this [You Tube](#) animation are based on real letters found in the National Archives from the men fighting on the Western Front writing back to their colleagues at Marylebone Station.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vAXG7nD5bnM>



Above: The London Regiment and 7 Rifles.

Link to more photos of the Ceremony on Flickr:- <https://www.flickr.com/photos/96629202@N06/sets/72157652001079352> .

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Hackney Royal Visit - 1921

When a caller to TRBL contact centre posed the question if anyone could help her find out the history this photo that shows her grandfather (third from right) and who was also a Member of Hackney Branch.



David Heathcote of Hackney Branch and a keen researcher into military history and archives, took up the challenge. David found out the photo was taken on 30 April 1921, when Edward was Prince of Wales; the Prince was on a local tour of Hackney and also visited St John's Church, Sutton House Club, Clapton Orient FC which is now Leyton Orient FC.

The Branch thought it was appropriate to have its WW1 Veterans on parade, seen here.

Our caller was thrilled to receive the news as she had given up hope of ever finding the background details. Another satisfied customer thanks to the diligence of a RBL Member. Well done David.

No cash please - we're British!

This year has seen one of the biggest shake ups in the way Membership renewal is administered, the payment of Members' fees and new joiners' data and payment processing.

Branches have regularly been sent information on how the changes will impact on Branch administration and their Members. Due to increased commemorative activities and imminent implementation for these new systems, Branches are experiencing information overload. It is hard to get a balance with Head Office cascades and it is appreciated that while it can be overwhelming, it is necessary to get these details on how this will impact on ALL Branches at national level.

The new application form was emailed out to all Branches for those that were recruiting in advance of the new system coming into effect and before Aylesford had stock ready for ordering. The form must be printed double-

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sided as it is fed to the system where technology reads it as such and scans the data automatically. Pages 1 and 2 are completed and returned to Novacroft at Northampton; 3 and 4 are given to the joiner. These forms must contain one cheque per application or the Direct Debit Mandate completed. Any forms without payment enclosed will be returned to the applicant. NO CASH or cheque for bulk Membership can be accepted by Novacroft.

Greenwich University - Student Forties Fundraiser

A group of students at Greenwich University embarked on organising a Fundraiser as part of their Events Management Degree coursework. The Legion was fortunate enough to benefit from this venture as it was selected as the charity of choice.

They decide upon a 40s themed night to be held at 'Up the Creek Comedy Club' in Greenwich.

Charlotte Thompson the CFR attended in support of the event and our London Welfare Team was delighted to answer the call to give a presentation talk about Legion Welfare delivery and services. The night saw entertainment from a magician, a 3 girl singing troop that roused the crowd to hit the dance floor, a female ukulele player strummed Vera Lynn tunes and 40s classics and much more. In the spirit of the event, our London team staff wore Poppy Shop dresses and enjoyed a very entertaining night. The night raised £229.38.



L-R: Charlotte Dicks, Welfare Caseworker; Emily Harris, Advice and Information Officer; Zoe Martin, Team Leader.

Who put that table there!

Election Process

The election process for the Greater London District Chairman/Woman and Vice Chairman/Woman (3 year terms for each role), has started following National Conference. When Syed Mahmood stood unopposed in the

Membership Council elections it was necessary for him to resign as GLD Vice Chairman to take up his new role following National Conference this May. Reg Pinney took on the remainder of the term of office as Chairman when Rob Richier resigned in January 2015. ???In accordance with the Royal Charter the election process needs to be held.???

Please consider encouraging eligible Members to come forward for nomination. Anyone with Chairing or Committee experience would be ideal, especially those with new and innovative ideas and strong leadership. However it is not essential as support is provided by the MSO.

Anyone that would like to view the role profile and responsibilities should email sstephenson@britishlegion.org.uk requesting this Membership Handbook extract.

Common misnomers

How many times do you hear Members quote rules and regulations that you have not seen or read in any guidance?

These same 'declarations' reach the London Area Office and many of them are obsolete, never existed or just metamorphosed over time by word of mouth.



Here are some of them along with the actuality:-

"You need to have been a member of the Legion for at least 1,2,3,4,5 + years before you can become a Branch or District Officer"

No this is not true, length of service is not one of the criteria for eligibility to stand in an election.

"After a certain length of time as a Member, you can be awarded Branch LIFE Membership, or LIFE Membership."

No, the Royal Charter only recognises 4 classes of Membership and a 'Life Member' is a MERITORIOUS SERVICE award granted by the National Chairman.

"Women must join the Women's Section of the RBL only."

No, they can join either TRBL or the Women's Section or both; their choice.

"The Branch can tell the Club what to do and the Club must do as the Branch wishes."

Not if the Club is the Tenant, pays the rent and abides by the Lease. The lease contains the letter of the law.

"The dress code for Members at Committee meetings is blazer and grey trousers; jackets must be worn when saying the Exhortation"

No. There is guidance for dress code in the Ceremonial Handbook for formal

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parades but not for Officers when general business is conducted at Branch or County/County level meetings.

"Branch Funds - it's our money!"

All funds are Legion funds. Branches have been delegated authority from TRBL Board of Trustees to administer Legion business at local level on their behalf.

For accurate information of current rules and regulations and Membership guidance, please refer to the Royal Charter and the Membership Handbook, which is all online.

Join the 10K Poppy Walk Sunday 19 July 2015



The Royal British Legion 10km London Poppy Walk is open to all, walking solo, in a team or with your dog. Entry fee £10.00 (under 12s go free). Register at www.britishlegion.org.uk/poppywalk . For those wishing to register offline please contact Madeleine for an application form on 020 3465 9169, email: mbowler@britishlegion.org.uk

Greater London District Annual Parade - Sunday 13 September 2015, 2.00pm



Service and Sunset Ceremony incorporating massed Standards of The Royal British Legion, TRBL Women's Section, RNA, Army, RAFA, , Cadet Forces, The Gurkhas, Chelsea Pensioners and The Royal British Legion Surbiton Youth Marching Band.

Parade to form up at 2.00pm ready to move off at 2.15pm for a Church Service. It will then return via Richmond Town Centre to the car park, nearby 144 (Richmond) Squadron, Air Training Corps ATC HQ, Old Deer Park (Car Park), Park Lane, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 2RA.

All Greater London Branch Members and GLD Youth Affiliated groups are welcome to attend the Parade.



National FEPOW Fellowship Welfare Remembrance Association

NFFWRA is holding a 70th anniversary of VJ Day Commemorative Service at 11am on Saturday 15 August 2015 at The Church of St Martin-in-the-Fields Trafalgar Square, London. Standard Bearers have been specifically invited to attend. Stan Heath, GLD Ceremonial Officer will advise which SBs should attend as numbers are limited. Standard Bearers keen to attend should contact Stan Heath (tel 01784 255005) to confirm their availability.

Guests to be invited will be organised by the Association.

Lord Mayors Show - 14 November 2015

This year, for the first time, the GLD Committee has taken responsibility for the RBL entry to the Lord Mayor's Show. A maximum of 20 Standard Bearers are required to take part in the Parade. Any that are able to march in the Parade, representing the GLD, should contact Stan Heath the GLD Ceremonial Officer: tel 01784 255005.



For those that would like to hone their skills in preparation for this prestigious event, please consider attending the practice sessions arranged at the TA Centre 213 Balham High

Road, London, SW17 7BQ. Just turn up with Standard, sling and gloves; no need to book. These sessions are proving very successful and well attended. Next training dates:-

Wednesday evening 6.30pm - 8.00pm:-

- 15 July
- 30 Sept

<https://lordmayorsshow.london/>

National Conference - 2015

This year, there was no traditional Membership stand at the exhibition, but instead a digital hub with eight stations was installed, where Members could see some of the new projects in action. Amongst the systems and programmes showcased were Office 365, e-voting, the new On Line Joining page, Branch websites, the Knowledgebase and Every Man remembered. The hub proved to be extremely popular and thanks to the help of regional staff and volunteers, there were many interacting.

Conference was very positive this year and feedback from the Delegates has been good. The Membership Forum this time formed part of the main Conference on Saturday afternoon.

Motion results, future dates and locations can all be found published online at

<http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/membership/members-information/annual-conference> .

Hinge of Fate - London Guided Walk

Free concession for RBL Members

Jack Yeomanson's latest walk is based on the four days in 1940, which nearly changed history as Britain wrestled with fighting, or seeking peace with, a German army which had blitzed Europe at an alarming rate, pegging the British forces in at Dunkirk.

The 'Footprints of London' tour costs £10.00 but Jack has kindly offered a one-off **FREE** guided tour to Veterans and Legion Members. At the end of the tour Jack will arrange to finish at a pub for those that would like to reflect on the day's outing or catch up with comrades, over a well deserved drink. To make it a special occasion, Jack conveyed the wearing of medals would not be out of place. Walkers would meet up at Green Park Station. Anyone that would like to book in for a September walk should email Jack on email at

rowdenyeomansonwalks@gmail.com. If you have a group of interested Branch Members, please forward all the names of those committed to turning up for the walk. More information on the walk can be viewed here:-

<http://footprintsoflondon.com/2015/05/4360/>

Chairman's Coffee Morning

GLD Branch Officers are invited to the London Pop In Centre at 199 Borough High Street for a drop in and meet the GLD Chairman session on 18 August 2015 at 10.30am. The coffee morning is an opportunity to discuss any Branch or Membership topics with Reg Pinney your District Chairman.

Mr Pinney would look forward to meeting up with Members and wishes all an enjoyable sunny summer.

District Treasurer's Message

As we draw closer to 30 June, Branch Treasurers need to be thinking about preparing Branch Accounts and then having the completed forms examined. If you have a property occupied by a Club you will need to complete a Branch Accounts Form and if you have no property a Receipts & Payments Form.

Remember the best way to have your Branch Accounts examined is by a RBL Qualified Independent Examiner; someone who has been trained and qualified with TRBL and understands RBL charity rules and regulations. S/he will be able to advise as well as examine.

Your Branch Accounts can be examined by a RBL IE if your turnover is less than £30k and your assets under £250k. Not included in this figure are any BFI held funds or any property held in corporate Trusteeship, but any property held locally will be included.

The GLD is lucky enough to have a couple of its RBL IEs who are able to undertake examinations over this level due to professional qualifications, so please ask about our Examiners even if your Branch exceeds the limits. RBL Independent Examiners do not charge Branches and are the RBL preferred people for account examination. This year we are pleased to be able to add to our list of Examiners and express congratulations to Trish Lanning based in the Harefield area on her recent qualification. Sadly we also have some IEs standing down for various reasons and express our thanks to them for all their hard work on behalf of our Branches and wish them well. Anyone interested in joining the GLD Team of Examiners, please contact the GLD MSO. The current updated list of the IEs and their contact details will be circulated soon to enable examinations to be arranged before the deadline for Branch Accounts submission of 30 September.

Joanne Stevens.

Ceremonial Handbook

Following a period of review, the Ceremonial Working Group is happy to announce the publication of the new Ceremonial Handbook. This Ceremonial Handbook is intended to provide Counties/Districts, branches and the general public with guidance and policy on all aspects of Legion Ceremonial activity.

As part of the review, the document has been divided into two sections:

Section A provides guidelines on key internal events such as Standard Bearer competitions and policies on Legion ceremonial dress.

Section B provides guidelines on the format of public events as well as making recommendations for how such events can be organised. This section will soon be accessible to the general public through the Legion website. The full version of the Ceremonial Handbook is available to Counties/Districts and branches in the Membership Reference area of the website

<http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/membership/members-information/membership-documents>

Log in details can be provided by your Membership Support Officer, Sarah Stephenson.



*When you go home, tell them of us and say,
For your tomorrow, we gave our today.*



Greater London District Committee

Name	Position	Local Branch Member
Reginald Pinney	Chairman	Southgate
Joanne Stevens	Treasurer	Elm Park
Phil Beckinsale	Member	Harrow
Bryan Binning	Member	Greenford
Irene Brockey	Member and (PDRO)	Sunbury
Chad Carress	Member	Croydon
Griff Griffin	Member	Romford
Jim Lowther (AKA John)	Member	Chiswick
George Dryburgh	co-opted Member and (DPAC)	Romford
Chris Carr	co-opted Member	Romford
Raymond Harris	co-opted Member	Southgate
Jackie Pinney	co-opted Member	Southgate
Linda Reynolds	co-opted Member	Elm Park
Jack Weedon (AKA John)	co-opted Member	Ilford

By Appointment:-

Standard Bearer Michael Foster

Ceremonial Officer Stan Heath

Parade Marshal Reg Burton

Welfare Representative Ken Sprowles

WS, Met. Central Rep. Janet Salter

Membership Support Officer, GLD, Sarah Stephenson

Haig House, London Area Office, 199 Borough High Street, London SE1 1AA

Email: sstephenson@britishlegion.org.uk

Website: <http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/counties/greater-london>

Conference Committee

Phil Beckinsale

Chad Carress

Bryan Binning

Griff Griffin

Ken Sprowles

David Justice

Finola Turner