



We will remember them

Foreword from Martin Forde

In April 2012 the consultation proposals were launched for the 'Pathway for Growth' Change Programme with the final strategy signed off in May. This marks a major milestone in implementing the Pathway for Growth plan and transitioning the Legion to a new structure, designed to enable delivery of welfare, representation, Remembrance and comradeship at a more local level. Initially this will affect staff in the first instance and for the time being Membership remains unaffected. District officials will be visiting branches to brief in more detail the Pathway for Growth strategy. Change can be difficult for some, but it is necessary to make the Legion fit for purpose. Ultimately the Legion is getting back to basics with a predominate focus on putting the **Welfare of our Beneficiaries** at the heart of everything we do.

Website

In keeping with the merging of the four Metropolitan Counties the Membership pages on the internet have been renamed Greater London. If you have bookmarked this page as a favourite for your web browser you will need to relink to the new web address as follows:-

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

The newsletter can be downloaded from the homepage; events arriving with a short notice period that would miss out on the next newsletter are published online and there is an online Branch Bulletin noticeboard with useful reminders, training dates and specific branch business information. Don't miss out; get online and get the head's up on what's

going on in London's Legion.



The branch index pages are being updated so that all those without a website will be linked with an individual home page with the branch location and link to Google maps. These pages are edited by the District Secretary can be updated with basic information and digital pictures of the branch and local Legion activities. It would be appreciated if a digital photo (taken by a member of the branch to ensure copyright infringement does not arise) is supplied for those without an image of their meeting place.

If a branch member or a volunteer with web skills would like to edit and publish a branch website; web space and branded templates can be set up for those willing to take responsibility for this task.

Email your web enquiries and any digital images to:-

sstephenson@britishlegion.org.uk.

London Marathon

Nearly 80 runners ran the Virgin London Marathon for The Royal British Legion and raised an incredible £120,000 to support our vital work for Armed Forces, past and present and their families.



Some of our runners donned bright red poppy costumes to stand out from the crowd as they ran around the gruelling 26.2 mile course, including a number of fetching Poppy hats.

A crowd of 50 supporters, volunteers and family members gave our runners a much-needed boost at the Legion's cheering station at Tower Hill, approximately 13 miles along the course.

To thank runners and celebrate their fantastic achievement, the Legion held a post-marathon reception at the IET building on Embankment, which gave sweeping views over London and a good vantage point to see the marathon below at the 25 mile mark. Runners received massages to help ease their weary bodies, and lots of refreshments.

Among the Legion's runners were a number who are currently in the Armed Forces, with many commenting on the important work of the Legion and its relevance to those serving today.

London Cabbie, and ex-Lance Corporal in the Royal Signals Stephen Kennedy, completed his first ever marathon and chose the Legion because the charity helped get his life back on track.

He said: "I'm so happy to have completed the marathon in support of the Legion. I ran to

help other Armed Forces veterans, after the Legion helped me find a home, access my war pension and train as a London Taxi Driver. I wouldn't have made it to this point without the Legion's help."

Russell Thompson, the Legion's Director of National Events and Fundraising, said: "It's been a fantastic day, and I want to congratulate all the runners for taking part in such a momentous event and raising an overwhelming sum of money for the Legion. This will go towards providing financial, employment and housing support to the Armed Forces family, and the recovery of current serving personnel."

Army v Navy at Twickers



V



Despite quite awful weather on Saturday 28th April, the Legion made the very best out of a tough day in terms of raising our profile, raising funds & selling merchandise. The atmospheric event of Turf War with Army v Navy was a most reassuring success achieved through a combined effort of Staff giving of their own time & Volunteers working effectively together. Throughout the day, spirit, humour and patience prevailed in the dismal weather conditions. A crowd of more than 62.5 thousand made up almost exclusively of the Service community, both Serving & Veteran, left Twickenham fully aware that the Royal British Legion is very much around for when they may need us.



GLD Conference

At the GLD Committee on 12 May, the date agreed for the GLD Conference was rescheduled to **Saturday 12th January 2013**.

The District is inviting branches to host the Conference for 2015, consideration should be given to parking space, catering, disability access and travel links. Contact Conference Chairman email: Reg.pinney@sky.com

Queens Diamond Jubilee

Celebrations were in abundance over the June Jubilee Bank holiday. See the main Legion website for the photos and write up of the Legion's activities on the weekend of this most glorious of Royal Occasions.

<http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/diamond-jubilee/>



Poppy Appeal

The Poppy Appeal 2011 has smashed all previous records reaching in excess of £38 million, showing the nation's heartfelt support for our brave Armed Forces.

London's total stands at a whopping £4million plus.

If you have friends or relatives that would like to volunteer for the Poppy Appeal, contact: Ann Bedford ABedford@britishlegion.org.uk Tel: 020 7863 3348 Mobile: 07770702594.



Lost or Stolen Cards

Without a crime reference number the re-issuing of a card needs to be paid for by cheque from the member's funds and not from branch funds.

National Conference



The 2012 Annual Conference was held in The Spa Complex, South Bay, Scarborough on Saturday 19 May and Sunday 20 May. The 2013 Annual Conference will be held in Llandudno, Wales.

A significant Motion passed effecting branch

administration is that

'The financial year for Branches, Counties and Districts (the Field Financial Year) will be changed to 1 July to 30 June with the first Field Financial Year end being 30 June 2013. This will reduce pressure on Branch, County and District Treasurers and Committees.'

The annual subscription fee will be going up by £1.00 from £12.00 to £13.00. You can find the results of all the Conference Motions on the website:

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

New Joiners

Application Forms

Frequently forms are arriving at the District Secretary's office or our Central Data Input Unit with Section E incomplete. Please ensure your new membership application forms are completed fully, especially the SECTION E tick boxes on the MS4 forms. Incomplete and incorrectly filled forms results in the forms being returned back to the Branch for completion.

The MEM20 application form is to be withdrawn with the timing of the yearly renewal of cards and membership fee increase.

The MS4 is in the process of being updated for ease of use for all concerned. Once available for ordering (end of July '12), branches will be notified via branch secretaries and the Website GLD Bulletin Board and be available to download. The previous version will not be accepted and only applications received on the new form will be processed.

Greetings from the District Secretary

I arrived here at Haig House this Spring to an office with a fantastic view of the Shard and with a warm welcome from staff colleagues, settling in was easy. I soon realised I had come at a time of great change for the London Membership area and the Legion as a whole. While very exciting times and very challenging I see this as a great opportunity for all to think innovatively and contribute as best we can to play our part in keeping this organisation as the No.1 Service charity.

I feel very privileged to be working for The Royal British Legion and committed to the aims and objectives of the Legion with the main focus being our charitable cause to provide support, care and assistance for all our **beneficiaries**. This motivational drive should be at the centre of everything we do.

I've shared the experience of volunteering at the Army V Navy Rugby Match, in which standing out in the cold and non-stop rain for 5 hours trying to convince people they needed blow-up clappers brings home how dedicated our members, volunteers and staff are to supporting the Armed Forces Community. I look forward to seeing Membership developing and embracing digital technology and communications. This will better enable the sharing of ideas and initiatives – whether it be fundraising, membership recruitment or community events.

Sarah Stephenson

Temporary Cards

The District office is aware that temporary (3 month) membership cards have been issued to new joiners; the Legion does not approve of or issue temporary membership cards. If this practice relates to Club membership, it needs to be made apparent at the time of joining.

Branch Treasurers Course Outputs

On June 19-20 a Branch Treasurers course was held. Even though some of the course delegates had carried out their role for many years there was still surprising snippets of information they were enlightened to. At the end of the course attendees were asked key learning points they would take forward. Here they are shared with you.

- Branch cheque books should have the name of the Legion and the Charity's registered number (Registered Charity No.219279) endorsed on every cheque
- Expenses should ALWAYS be paid by cheque and never by cash – however small the amount
- All expenditure needs to be approved by the Committee at the Branch Committee meeting and kept in a minute book
- Social funds raised for members activities, days out, dining etc, should not be banked in any Legion account
- All Poppy appeal Collections are banked in the PA Fund and should not be banked in any branch bank account
- BFI pays interest at 3.2% which is substantially higher than average market interest rates
- The branch needs an Asset Register

When calculating the threshold level for determining whether the branch requires an Audit or Independent Examination the following, which will be audited centrally, may be excluded from the value of income, expenditure or assets:

- Affiliation Fees payable to Head Office
- Value of Property which is held under Corporate Trusteeship
- The value of any funds held at HO on behalf of the branch.
- Poppy appeal receipts and payments (only Non-UK branches may exclude)

As a result of which the Market Value is really only a notary on the accounts where it is held under corporate trusteeship and any value can be excluded.

From the feedback received the course was extremely useful and would be recommended to anyone wishing to take up the position of Branch Treasurer or refresh their skills.

100 years ago - 1912 Summer Olympics

George Patton participated in the first-ever modern pentathlon at the 1912 Summer Olympics in Stockholm. He finished fifth overall. He placed seventh out of 37 contestants in the 300 meter freestyle swimming. He was fourth out of 29 fencers. In the equestrian cross-country steeplechase, he was among the riders who turned in perfect performances, but he placed sixth because of his time. Patton "hit the wall" 50 yards (46 m) from the finish line of the 4 Kilometre cross-country footrace, then fainted after crossing the line at a walk; he finished third out of 15 contestants.



In pistol shooting, Patton placed 20th out of 32 contestants. He used a .38 caliber pistol, while most of the other competitors chose .22 caliber firearms. He claimed that the holes in the paper from his early shots were so large that some of his later

bullets passed through them, but the judges decided he once missed the target completely. Modern competitions on this level frequently now employ a moving background to specifically track multiple shots through the same hole. There was much controversy, but the judges' ruling was upheld. Patton neither complained, nor made excuses. Patton's only comment was:

"The high spirit of sportsmanship and generosity manifested throughout speaks volumes for the character of the officers of the present day. There was not a single incident of a protest or any unsportsmanlike quibbling or fighting for points which I may say, marred some of the other civilian competitions at the Olympic Games. Each man did his best and took what fortune sent them like a true soldier, and at the end we all felt more like good friends and comrades than rivals in a severe competition, yet this spirit of friendship in no manner detracted from the zeal with which all strove for success."

Patton served as a General in WWII and was known for his colourful speeches of

Quote:

Lead me, follow me, or get out of my way...

George Patton

which the one delivered to troops of the U.S. Third Army on June 5, 1944, the day before D-day, has been well documented and a sanitised portrayal of the speech featured in the 1970 film PATTON.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patton%27s_Speech_to_the_Third_Army

Olympic Torch Relay at National Arboretum



When the Olympic Torch Relay makes its special visit to the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire on Armed Forces Day - Saturday 30 June. **Corporal Johnson Beharry VC** will carry the Torch. Corporal Beharry from 1st Battalion The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment was the first person to receive the Victoria Cross (VC) in 30 years and the first living recipient since 1965. He was awarded the VC (the highest award for military valour in the British and Commonwealth Armed Forces) for twice saving members of his unit from ambushes in Al-Amarah, Iraq, in 2004.

<http://www.thenma.org.uk/events/events-calendar/calendar-of-events/armed-forces-day-2012-the-olympic-torch-relay/>

Staff in Haig house will be operating various methods of working throughout the Olympic Games such as differing work hours dependent at peak event times and accessing systems remotely or working outside of the office to cause minimal disruption to the service normally provided. Please be patient at this moment in time if experiencing difficulty when making contact with Head office.

Did you know...

For the second consecutive year, The Royal British Legion has been scored by The Reputation Institute as having the second highest charity reputation in the UK – exceeded only by the RNLI.

The Legion has an excellent reputation with a score of 90.34, outperforming Rolls-Royce Group (84.03) which has the best corporate reputation in the UK.

Ratings	TOP FIVE	Pulse Score
1 st	RNLI	93.96
2 nd	The Royal British Legion	90.34
3 rd	NSPCC	87.72
4 th	Cancer Research UK	87.62
5 th	RSPCA	86.04

Jeff Duley - Eastcote Branch Secretary

What a year Jeff is having; what with Buckingham Palace Garden Parties and being nominated for the Hillingdon Local Hero Awards for his fundraising efforts. Raising in excess of £44K, Jeff is one of a number of model members we are lucky to have in the GLD District. Some of you may have already seen Jeff's photo on the GLD website of the RAF Typhoon jet arriving at Northolt to provide a Quick Reaction Alert force to protect the airspace over London while the Olympics are on. Check out more about Jeff on the People's Pages of the website.

<http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/counties/greater-london/london-membership/peoples-pages/>



Blessing of the Standard

The Dedication for the new GLD standard is set to take place at Evensong in the very charming Church of St Mary Magdalene, in Paradise Road, Richmond TW9 1SN on Sunday 22 July. All welcome.



Parade in the Park – District Chairman's Message

On 2nd June at the Jubilee Festival in Hyde Park we had geared up for a strong Legion presence in the Parade ground for 24 of our Standards to be on show. This should have been a proud and colourful event for the Legion but due to 50% of Legion Standard Bearers in attendance on the day, so very disappointing. Some did not have the courtesy to send their apologies to the Ceremonial Officer in advance of their absence. Due to limitations with event organisers, we had refused attendance to Standard Bearers that had eagerly approached us wanting to attend. If given notice they could have taken the absentees' places. In future, the District will review who should attend certain events; for high profile, prominent and exclusive events where Legion Standard Bearers are required to attend, only those that have shown reliability, polish and courtesy will be invited to attend.

Training

Standard Bearer Training Dates

- July 11th and 18th
- September 5th, 19th and 26th

All sessions start at 1830hrs. No need to book... just turn up with Standard, sling and gloves.

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

County Management course

The next CMC will be held on Sat 24 - Sun 25 November in London. If you would like to attend contact the District secretary.

Festival of Remembrance

All branches should now be in receipt of the ticket allocation guidelines and application ballot form for the Festival of Remembrance Saturday 10th November 2012.



Eligible branches should be exercising a fair and transparent process for their members to have the opportunity to apply. Tickets will be £10 for the evening performance. As in previous years there are very few seats available with a total of 163 available to cover all of the London Branches.

No branch of The Royal British Legion will receive more than four tickets. **This is conditional on compliance with The Royal Charter and payment of due affiliation fees up to the end of the previous financial year.** Priority will be given to those Branches and members who have not previously been successful or have not been for a number of years. Full details for the Festival and Cenotaph March Past can be accessed on the website link:-

<http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/counties/greater-london/whats-on-in-london/remembrance-in-london/>



In Memoriam 2014

Is a national project which will, with the assistance of local communities and groups, locate, log, maintain then protect the nation's war memorials in time for Remembrance Day 2014. Read more about it at <http://www.inmemoriam2014.org/>

Lambeth Police – Memorial Watch

The rocketing metals market has created an upsurge in criminal activity with thieves on the hunt for scrap metal. The nation's valued war memorials are under increasing threat from thieves and vandals attempting to steal metal from monuments. Despite the metal having relatively little monetary value it is estimated that on average one war memorial a week is being targeted by thieves looking to illegally remove bronze, copper or other metals to sell on for scrap.

With over 250 war memorials in Lambeth alone, Acting Inspector Paul White the Lambeth lead for Operation Ferrous, the Met's approach in aiming to identify, disrupt and deter those involved in metal theft, has been working with Legion Branches in the Lambeth Borough with a view to setting up a bespoke Neighbourhood Watch Group with a view to naming it Memorial Watch.



Streatham Wells Safer Neighbourhoods Team, officers left to right - Acting Insp. Steve Jones & Acting Sergeant Phill Govett by the war memorial in Streatham.

End of Renewal Year - Key Admin Dates

- Any applications received after 14 June will start to be processed again from 2 July, these applicants will receive 15 months membership
- Transfers – the last day that these can be actioned in the current renewal year is 26 July 2012.

Email distribution Lists

Branches secretaries without email need to supply an email address from a Branch Committee official willing to be their email as the point of contact to receive communications from the District. While it is the Branch Secretaries role to be the main point of contact it is proving ineffective to operate an efficient communication channel without having an email address. When recruiting branch secretaries please ensure they have an email address to receive information and have the ability to view web links for the GLD site.

Email is cost effective and this will cut back on postal costs and staff resource time.

15% discount on all services at Johnson Dry Cleaners.

Members of The Royal British Legion can now receive a 15 % discount on all services at Johnson Cleaners. What's more - If members join Johnson Cleaners Priority Club they will also receive an additional 10% discount all year round, making the total discount 25%. (Annual Membership costs £11.95).

Terms and conditions: 15% discount - only one voucher per customer per order. The voucher cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Priority Club discount applies.

To redeem the offer members should take the flyer
http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/media/2108511/johnson_cleaners_flyer.pdf along to any Johnson Cleaners branch. Branches can be located at <http://www.johnsoncleaners.com/>



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The Royal British Legion
Haig House
199 Borough High Street
London SE1 1AA

Registered Charity Number 219275

Greater London District Committee

Minutes Summary

Timothy (AKA Mick) McManus was elected to be the Greater London District Representative for Membership Council, consequently stepping down from the GLD Committee. Voting closed Friday 30th March 2012 at 5pm. Congratulations Mick, we wish you all the best in your new role.

The amalgamation of the Metropolitan counties to the Greater London District required a multitude of governing administrative processes to enable the Committee to oversee the running of the District. Budgets, bank accounts/mandates and procedures and the setting up of sub-committees are now nearly complete. These fundamental changes link into the Legion's databases for membership and finance systems enabling analysis and controls to be put in place. At present Martin Forde is the Interim District Chairman until the new Chairman takes up this position in January 2013. In July the electoral process for the new Chairman begins with members and branches being notified of forthcoming elections; with Branch secretaries requesting nominations for candidates.

Communication is a key factor in establishing the new District and more importantly to carry the Legion's aims and objectives of the Royal Charter via Trustees through to branch members and ultimately to Legion supporters and potential new members. Communication needs to be greatly improved all round and one of the Greater London District directives is for branch secretaries to pro-actively create email distribution lists and for members to supply their email addresses to receive cascaded member information coming from the District.

Due to many members paying cash at renewal they need to collect their card from the branch and may neglect this task or remember when it is all too late. All branches at the time of membership renewal need to contact lapsed members to check the reason why the member has not collected.

District Committee meetings will be held bi-monthly from July onwards.

Committee Members

District Chairman: Martin Forde
Vice Chair: Steve Newson
Treasurer: Raymond Harris
Susan Barnes PAC (West)
Phil Beckinsale
Penny Bell-Wright DRO (West)
Bryan Binning
Stan Bonner PAC (East)
Irene Brockey
Robert Cantwell
George Dryburgh
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

District Secretary: Sarah Stephenson sstephenson@britishlegion.org.uk

Membership Area Manager: Beverley Harrison: BHarrison@britishlegion.org.uk

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

Sub Committees

Awards

Chair: Martin Forde
Vice Chair: Steve Newson
Jim Lowther
Reg Pinney

Recruiting

Chair: Steve Newson
West London Branches: Penny Bell-Wright
East London Branches: Reg Pinney

Training

Chair: Rob Richier

Finance and Budget

Chair: Syed Mahmood
Raymond Harris, Susan Barnes, Rob Richier,
Reg Pinney, Steve Newson, Bryan Binning.

Welfare

Chair: George Dryburgh

Fundraising

Chair: Steve Newson
Raymond Harris, Syed Mahmood, Rob Richier;
Robert Cantwell, Susan Barnes and Stan
Bonner.

Clubs

Penny Bell-Wright, Irene Brockey,
Rob Richier, Steve Newson

Conference

Chair: Reg Pinney; Robert Cantwell,
Roger Round

Poppy Appeal (DPAC)

West London Branches: Susan Barnes
East London Branches: Stan Bonner

Haig House Officers

Address: Haig House, 199 Borough High
Street, London, SE1 1AA



Acting Head of Welfare

Susan Watmough - 020 3207 2136

Welfare:-

Mash Alam (CMA) - 020 3207 2495
Wakeel Gbajumo (CWO) – 020 3207 2491
Kirsten Olufsen (CWO) - 020 3207 2493
Safa Khaliq (CWO) - 020 3207 2490
Peter Ashcroft (CWO) – 020 3207 2494

Benefits and Money Advice:

Lynsey Dalton (BMA) 020 3207 2488
Janet Boyce (BMA) 020 3207 2159

Fundraising

Graham Ferris (RFM) – 020 7863 3349
Ann Bedford (London Volunteering) – 020
7863 3348
Alice Fisher (SE CFR) – 020 7863 3347
Graham Akins (SW CFR) – 020 7863 3350
Sharon Bonner (NE CFR) – 020 8524 8373
Deborah Armantrading (NW CFR) - 07500 918
682

Property Contact:

David Arnold (Property) 020 3207 2447

Club Contact;

Pauline Swann (Club) 07970375421