



We will remember them

Remembrancetide

One of the busiest periods of the year for the Legion has now passed with an all time record of success for fundraising on London Poppy Day, and Poppy Appeal launches. National media coverage for the Legion has been immense over Remembrancetide this year and with so much positive PR for the Legion this can only further the key Royal Charter **Objectives** (page 8, Appendix1) and to ensure the Legion continues its fantastic work for the British Armed Forces Community.



Poppy Appeal

The Poppy Appeal 2011 broke all previous records having reached in excess of £40million, with **London bringing in** a final total for London 2011/12 £4,107,178.98, this was up from last year by 11.7%.

Over £800K was raised on London Poppy Day when members of the serving armed forces hit the Underground and streets of London in a concerted effort to ramp up the

Poppy Appeal takings and raise public awareness of what the Legion stands for.



Branch / Club Relationships

At a Meeting of Membership Council in October 2012 it was agreed that paragraph 2.1 in chapter 4.2.1 of the Management Handbook (Branch/Club relationship) should be changed to read as follows:

2.1. Since the Club and Legion Branch are separate entities, it is important that their Committees be kept completely separate. Members of Club committees should not also serve on any Legion Branch or County/District committee with which the Club is directly associated. It is a condition of the Licence that a Club or Branch officer (i.e. President, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer) shall not also serve on the committee of their associated Branch or Club as an officer (i.e. President, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer). This stipulation does not preclude representatives of Clubs or Branches being "in attendance" at the other party's committee meetings, where agreement for this practice exists or is introduced.

This change will ensure that conflicts of interest between Branch and Club cannot arise as a result of dual membership on Committees; it is also in line with the Legion Club Licence as agreed by the Board of Trustees.

Soho War Memorial

The parish of Soho was one of the few parishes in the Country not to have a memorial to those killed in WWII. The people of Soho came together to have a memorial dedicated to the memory of those killed in active service who came from Soho; records have revealed only 6 names of which 5 were Jewish. 143 names have been found of civilians killed in the Blitz in Soho. On 8 November 2012 the unveiling of the memorial took place at St Anne's Churchyard in Soho's Wardour Street.



Priest-in-Charge, Ven William Jacob, along with Reverend Ari Cohen from the West End Synagogue delivered the service. The Lord Mayor of Westminster, Angela Harvey, members of the Association of Jewish Ex-Service Men and Women, the Jewish Military Museum. Martin Forde – Interim Chairman for GLD laid a wreath on behalf of the Royal British Legion.



Seasons Greetings from District Secretary

Wishing you all the best over the festive period and plenty of R&R. Here's hoping 2013 will be another great year for the Legion.

Head Office Christmas Closure

The offices at Haig House will be closed for the period 25th December 2012 to 2 January 2013 inclusive.



Out with the old in with the New

Order or download the new MS4/12 application forms before 1st January 2013. All previous versions of application forms will be returned to the branch if they arrive at Membership Services after 31 Dec 2012. If you have not received your order, the new form can be downloaded from the internet and photocopied.



<http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/media/7916/rblmembershipform.pdf>

Web update

Trends

Since the Greater London District was formed and the website revamped web statistics have shown an increase in visitors to the online pages. Since the GLD was established there has been an increase of 77.5% of visitors to the District website, with 3180 page views in October alone.

In September the top visited pages on the GLD



Jo Weir Chair person of the Covent Garden Community Association volunteering at Covent Garden for London Poppy Day.

with our FR and events - as was seen on London Poppy Day - the Legion should continue for many years to come.

site was the Volunteering page Open Day and the third most visited page Volunteering opportunities. With so many newcomers to the website this can only be good news for the Legion. Changes are inevitable, but with more and more of the general public volunteering, and the serving Armed Forces engaging

Remembrance Web Pages

The GLD website has updated the Remembrance Pages and archived events this year on the page <http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/counties/greater-london/remembrance-in-london>

highlighting how much the Legion does at local level. Much of the ceremonial work and Legion presence provided on these occasions goes unnoticed beyond the local branch level; if you have any digital images and YouTube videos you think are appropriate for the web page, please email to sstephenson@britishlegion.org.uk



Trigger the pony marching in the Teddington Remembrance Parade 2012.

London Poppy Day

A total of £802,000 collected on Thursday 1st November is the highest ever for London Poppy Day, which is now in its seventh year, and a record for any amount collected on a single day during the Poppy Appeal.



Almost 2,000 volunteers, including members of the Army, Navy and Royal Air Force were out in force at 75 tube and train stations around London to raise vital funds

and awareness of The Royal British Legion's support for the current serving generation. Overwhelming collection figures from the day included £56,000 at Waterloo station, £54,000

raised at Canary Wharf and £47,000 at Liverpool Street.

The Legion's Director of Fundraising Charles Byrne said: "Thanks to the fantastic efforts of our organisers and volunteers as well as the public's generosity, the total raised will go towards the £1.7 million spent every week by the Legion in direct support to Armed Forces families."



National Conference - Wales

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.

Speakers and Presenters

Members who have skills in speaking to groups and classes who are confident to deliver educational talks to schools about the Legion and the history of Remembrance should contact Alice Fisher on 020 7863 3347.email afisher@britishlegion.org.uk

WANTED

Standard Bearers Competition 2013

The above competition will be held at Kneller Hall Twickenham on **2nd February 2013**.

Standard Bearers wishing to take part should arrive at **12 Noon**, the competition will commence at **13:00hrs** sharp. It is open to all Branch Standard Bearers. The Sgts Mess is to be used before and after the Competition, any spectators must be properly dressed, no jeans. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available on arrival.



Branch Secretaries are requested to notify Stan Heath on 01784 255006 or by letter to 15 Ashgrove Road, Ashford Middx, TW15 1NS, no later than **25th January 2013**, if their Standard Bearer wishes to take part - please give their name, Branch and car Reg No if they are coming by road.

The nearest station is Twickenham on South West Trains and then by

a 281 bus going to Hounslow, bus stops outside of Kneller Hall. Or by tube on the Piccadilly underground to **Hounslow East** and then the 281 bus from the Bus Station, going to Tolworth, stopping outside of Kneller Hall. For SATNAV users the postcode is TW2 7DU

Spectators will be most welcome, but they **MUST** have their Legion Membership Card as a means of identification, to gain access at the Guardroom.

Training Dates

January 16, 23 and 30, 2013

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](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk)

Lord Mayor's Show – 10 Nov 2012

The District Ceremonial Officer Stan 'the Man' Heath got caught on camera when the BBC caught Stan for an impromptu interview when broadcasting the Parade live from the City's Streets. Stan has been organising the Standard Bearers since 1976 years for this event. The Standard Bearers marched ahead of the Legion's

float that had Cadets from the Lloyds of London Branch.



Standard Bearers who participated in this years' Lord Mayors' Show were:

- Stanley Heath
- Lee McHenry
- Peter Wildish
- Glynn Winterbottom
- Ernie Bounds
- Stewart McKenzie
- Harold Newman

The Legion was also represented on Saturday 10th November by the Surbiton RBL Youth Marching Band and members of the Legion's Riders' Branch.

Employers Liability Certificate which commences on 1 November 2012.

If you require this certificate for staff attending an event you may hold, please email me your request sstephenson@britishlegion.org.uk

Please note that:

a) By law you must prominently display a copy or copies of the certificate at each place of business that you employ persons covered by the policy. From 1 October 2008 this requirement may be satisfied by making the certificate available to all employees in electronic format.

b) Although it is no longer compulsory to retain copies of certificates for 40 years it remains prudent and in your best interest to do so, even if

such evidence of cover is maintained in electronic format.

This is because Employers Liability insurance may provide cover for "long tail" diseases and without the appropriate insurance records it may be difficult or even impossible to trace or identify your insurer. In the event that no insurer can be found you will be responsible for payment and legal costs of a claim.

Note: There is an Employers Liability Tracing Service available via www.abi.org.uk. This service should not be relied upon, but may be able to assist if you are unable to identify your insurer in the event of a claim.

Branch Accounts

For those of you yet to submit your accounts please ensure you have completed all the relevant forms. The Authority to Disclose Form with details of all bank accounts held; trust funds with copies of all bank statements for all a/c.

Community Covenants

Out of 34 London Local Authorities, only 6 remain unsigned. Brent, Camden, Harrow, Lambeth, Southwark and Waltham Forest.

Local authorities (and local groups within those authorities) that sign up to the Community Covenant Scheme can bid for grant funding for projects that deliver tangible results and meet the overall aims of the scheme.

£30M has been made available over the four financial years 2011 - 2015 through the Community Covenant Grant Scheme, and applications are invited for sums from £100 – £250,000 (although larger bids may also be considered in exceptional circumstances).

In the New Year a London Area Manager should be in place and the area office would like to hear from those of you who would like to get more involved working with your Local Authority and their Community Covenant. If you are interested in working together with the Legion area office on this (i.e. through your local knowledge or contacts) then they would really like to hear from you. Please contact the London Area Office once

the Area Manager is in position at the start of 2013.

Dagenham Community Covenant Signing and El- Alamein Commerorative Service

On the 23 October 2012 the Council leader Liam Smith unveiled a North African cedar tree outside the civic centre in Wood Lane to mark the 70th anniversary of the battle. The commemoration also marked the launch of an Armed Forces Community Covenant, which will seek to give assistance to former servicemen and women settling down in Barking and Dagenham.

Ex-Desert Rat George Borham, 92, was joined by military top brass at Dagenham Civic Centre along with the Royal British Legion for the signing of the covenant.



The planting of a North African cedar tree with former Desert Rat George Borham (saluting)

George Borham (of the Becontree Branch) was just 17 when he joined the army a year before the war broke out. Eager to serve his country at a time of great peril, the daredevil teenager was soon deployed to Palestine as part of an emergency draft. George, now 92, volunteered to become a lorry driver who brought live shells and petrol to the frontline in a bloody campaign that pitied the tactical skills of British Field-Marshal Bernard Montgomery and the German "Desert Fox", Erwin Rommel. George spoke of the lasting memory of the battle noise with exchange of fire that went on endlessly for days.

The bloody conflict, ended Nazi hopes of occupying Egypt and taking control of the Suez Canal in 1942.

Special Offers

In conjunction with The Royal British Legion, The Tudor Kitchen, 20 High Street, **SIDCUP**, Kent, DA14 6EH, is pleased to offer a **20% discount** on food to members of The Royal British Legion (plus a max of 3 non member guests) for the months October and November 2012 and 10% from 01 Dec 2012 onwards. Please book a table in advance and state you are from the Royal British Legion. Offer ends October 2013.

See the website <http://www.tudorkitchen.com/> for full menu, details of their 'French Days Oh La la', Live music special nights and booking details; Telephone:020 8302 1529. Bring your RBL **membership card** as ID and this voucher (<http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/media/73823/tudor%20kitchen1.jpg>) to the restaurant.



Please book in advance to avoid disappointment. Telephone:020 8302 1529 Offer ends next year in October 2013.

Quote:

"I never see any home cooking – all I get is fancy stuff."

Prince Philip in 1987

District Conference

Any persons wishing to attend the Conference on 12 January 2013, need to ensure they return the Delegate application form that was sent out to branches before 31st December. The Delegate pack will be made available online for members' information.

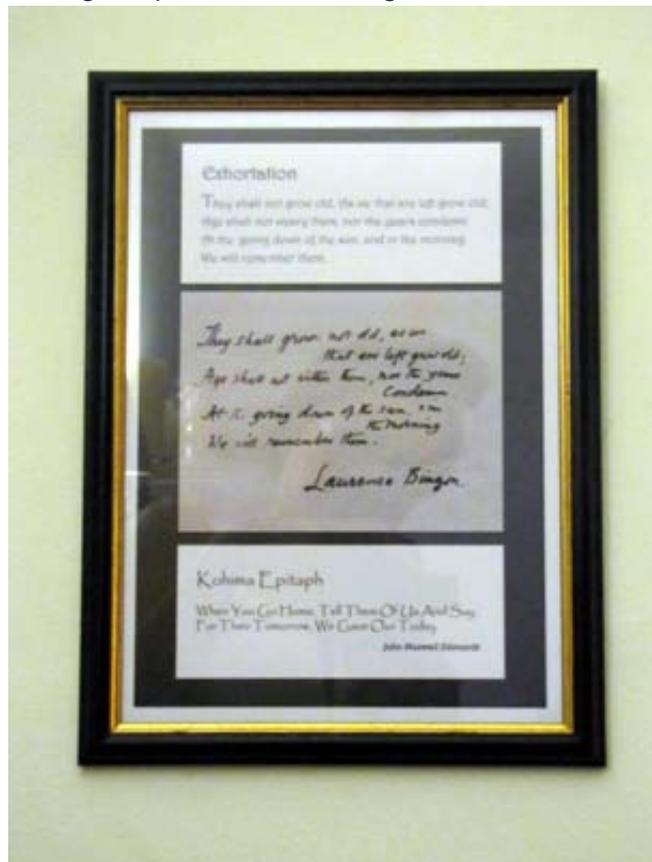
Quotation Competition

3 framed pictures to be won of The Original Exhortation Poem

The most well-known of poems that reverberate throughout the Legion are the Exhortation and the Kohima Epitaph.

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 from April 2012, July, October including this December issue, there are 4 quotations. Write down all 4 quotations on the entry form that can be found on the District website.

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

*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.*

Branch LIFE Members / Excused Members

In the past branches may have covered the cost of a member's Legion subscription and their branch fees from Branch funds. These members may have been classified as Branch LIFE Members or Excused Members as they experienced difficulty paying their fees. However there appears to be confusion around the criteria for how this is administered by branches in accordance with Royal Charter Compliance.

The Royal Charter stipulates the following classes of membership:-

- ' (i) Member
- (ii) Life Member
- (iii) Women's Section Member
- (iv) Youth Member'

only a member that has a National Life Award has their fees paid by the central Legion General Fund.

Members who are not able to pay can be considered under the -

Royal Charter Governing Regulations 46 - as follows:-

'A member who can prove, each year, that he is unable, for whatever reason, to keep paying his membership fee and branch subscription may be permitted by the Branch Committee to remain a member, despite non-payment of such fee and subscription, on terms set by that Branch Committee. The Branch is responsible for providing, solely from the branch subscriptions paid by other members of that Branch, the portion of the branch affiliation fee due in respect of any member so excused.'

This is further clarified in the Handbook -

4.1.2 Branch Administration - as follows:-

'3.4. A Branch may excuse a member from paying the Branch Subscription in certain circumstances but the Branch is still responsible for paying the Affiliation Fee from the administration fee levied on other

Branch members. The arrangement is to be reassessed each year and approved by the Branch AGM.'

The Royal Charter and the Handbook have clear guidelines on the administration for Excused Members; this rule should not be used too readily and to say they are experiencing hardship is not enough to excuse members from paying without proof. In the first instance hardship is already established if a member as a Legion beneficiary has been means tested by the Legion case workers and has written confirmation as experiencing financial hardship from their case worker. In other cases Proof of hardship can be assessed in the manner any organisation would do when means testing benefits or concessions e.g.

- Current '**Proof of unemployment benefit letter**' from benefits office or proof of Pension Income
- Pension payslip showing the applicant's address and net pay; or
- Three months' latest bank statements together with either:
 - a) Pension statement or
 - b) Annuity/Pension letter

The arrangement is to be reassessed each year and approved by the Branch AGM' this should be minuted at the meeting. Non compliance could lead to cost recovery from the branch officials' personal funds.

Update on Legion Developments from District Officials

If you would like a District Official to visit your branch and update you and members on corporate developments and strategies please email sstephenson@britishlegion.org.uk for contact details of the appropriate official(s) below.

NW	Brian Binning Susan Barnes
NE	Reg Pinney Steve Newson
SE	Syed Mahmood Rob Richier
SW	Irene Brockey Jim Lowther

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.

Greater London District Committee

Committee Members

District Chairman: Martin Forde
Vice Chair: Steve Newson
Treasurer: Raymond Harris
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
Janet Salter RBL WS, Metropolitan Central Committee Rep
Jack Weedon

By Appointment

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

District Secretary: Sarah Stephenson sstephenson@britishlegion.org.uk
(Tel 020 3207 2484)

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, Raymond
Harris;

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

Alison Whyman

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
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Property Contact:

David Arnold (Property) 020 3207 2447

Club Contact;

Pauline Swann (Club) 07970375421