The Royal British Legion
Cornwall Legion News

Spring 2013

INSIDE

Read our exclusive interview with Ian the Poppy Calls Fitter, Cornwall

www.britishlegion.org.uk/counties/cornwall

Registered Charity Number: 219279
New Beginnings...

❖ As we start a new year, we start a new chapter within the RBL in Cornwall by welcoming our new County Chairman Squadron Leader Shaun Pascoe. I’m sure you will support Shaun as he takes on this new role. We also begin a new phase within the RBL as we move forward with the Pathway for Growth programme. We hope this will enable us to be recognised as the No.1 provider of Welfare, Comradeship, Representation and Remembrance for the Armed Forces community. As with anything new, change can be difficult but with this restructure aimed at helping us work better together, it will ensure that beneficiaries are at the very heart of everything we do..

Vicki Bassett, CMA
CAMBORNE

GREAT NEWS FOR CAMBORNE BRANCH

Camborne Branch had an amazingly successful year in 2012. The Branch were successful in receiving the following awards:

John Ross Cup - In recognition of their efforts and progress made throughout 2011.

County Chairman’s Cup - In recognition of their sterling efforts, enthusiasm and determination to further the aims of The Royal British Legion, within their local area in 2011.

Pictured from left to right: Ian Thompson, Ted Williams, Reggie Potts, John Hayes, John Gumm, Malcolm Bathcelor, Vincent Young & Eddie Bassett.

Also, the evening of Friday 23 November saw the first major social event held by the Branch at Holman’s Social Club the Branch’s new meeting place and social venue. The evening was a wonderful event attended by almost 100 people, during which time they enjoyed music, a comedian, pasty supper, a raffle and prize draw with a total of 34 prizes kindly donated by local businesses, Branch members and friends. A decent amount of money was also raised. This social event will now hopefully pave the way to many more functions to be hosted by the Branch.

AIR TRAINING CORPS & ARMY CADET FORCE PRESENTATIONS

During January, Camborne RBL were delighted to attend parade nights for both 147 Sqn ATC and 12 Platoon Camborne ACF during which time certificates were awarded to those cadets who had assisted in collecting on behalf of the 2012 Poppy Appeal. The cadets between them raised nearly £800, a fantastic achievement and a credit to those involved.

On the same evenings two new shields donated by Camborne RBL were presented to each of the cadet forces.

Top right: The ATC were presented with a shield for BEST FLIGHT of the year and this was awarded to Sgt Hanson. A further in-house shield was awarded to Sgt Adams for NCO of the year.

Bottom right: The ACF were awarded a shield for BEST CADET of the year which went to Cpl Hewitt.
CAMELFORD

Following the departure of Revd J B Evans, the Camelford Branch of the Royal British Legion has been without a Chaplain. Since then the Branch has discussed who they think would be a suitable replacement. It was agreed, unanimously, that we should invite Revd John Henry Barfoot, an ex-Serviceman who served in the Royal Air Force, to take the position, and he most graciously agreed.

At the monthly meeting Revd John Henry Barfoot was formally introduced to the Branch and presented with the Branch’s Prayer Scarf by Mr Robin Moore, the Branch President. Revd Barfoot thanked all and said that he hoped to live up to the expectations of the Branch.

ST JUST - BERNARD NOW AN HONORARY LIFE MEMBER

A Stalwart of St Just who has served as President of the Branch and Club for the past 17 years has been honoured with lifetime membership of the organisation. Bernard Rees, 89, has been involved with the Branch and Club since 1974 in all Offices. He was presented with his award on the 27 October 2012 by Former Cornwall County Chairman, Lieutenant Commander Clive Rawson, who also stated that the Legion was very appreciative of all the work Mr Rees had done.

Mr Rees who was appointed MBE in 2008 and previously given a Gold Badge by the Legion, is only the second member of St Just to receive the accolade. Life Membership is awarded to members who have given at least 10 years Meritorious and Conspicuous Service and who also already hold a Gold Badge.

CHRISTMAS TREE EXHIBITION

St Just Branch had a Christmas Tree Exhibition at the Methodist Church in St Just during December. All organisations were invited to decorate a tree with a theme. Our theme was ‘We Will remember Them’. As you can see from the picture, we remembered those who had fallen, but we also wanted to remember those who are still serving and who would be away from their homes and families at Christmas.

22 trees were displayed and it was a huge success. We hope to repeat it again next year with a different theme.
LISKEARD

Liskeard Branch has had a busy period since the last CLN. We held our AGM in November and with much reluctance our president Norman Pampling MBE decided to call it a day after nearly 60 years with the Royal British Legion. He joined the RBL in 1953 and has been Chairman for 20 years and Branch President since 1995. The Club Chairman, Chrissie Henwood also decided to stand down after nearly 10 years in the job. We wish them both well for the future. They will both still serve as Committee members on their respective Committees.

Pictured: Branch Chairman Trevor Newbury presenting Norman with a nice bottle of brandy and an engraved glass trophy.

TIDEFORD & ST GERMANS

JUST LIKE BUSES

Tideford and St Germans Branch did not have any Junior members and then two came along at the same time! Sue Murch the Membership Secretary signed up Catherine Riozzi, age 14 and Wade Dyer, age 16 just in time for them to help with the preparation of the Poppy Boxes. Catherine already delivers the Branch Newsletter in her local area of St Germans and Wade from Tideford has volunteered to do some ground maintenance at the Legion. The Branch is delighted to have them on board - they think it's 'cool'!

SHE'S A TREASURE!

Bridget Turner (right) was presented with a special wine glass, duly filled with some red wine, when she retired from the Tideford and St Germans Royal British Legion Branch Committee at their AGM. She has looked after the accounts for 19 years and was thanked by the Vice Chairman, Mandy Fleckney (left), and all the members for her loyalty and commitment - the engraving on the glass read 'A Treasure of a Treasurer'.


TORPOINT

ROYAL NAVY SUBMARINE SCHOOL RAISE FUNDS FOR THE RBL

❖ Staff based at the Royal Navy Submarine School (RNSMS) within HMS Raleigh have presented the Royal British Legion with over £600 from the sale of specially commissioned pins for Remembrance Sunday.

The pins depict the well recognised Red Poppy together with a set of Dolphins, the coveted emblem of the Submarine Service. They were originally commissioned by the Northern Ireland Branch of the Submariners Association and have been on sale within the RNSMS for the past week. Proceeds from the sale were presented to Steve Lewis, Royal British Legion County Vice Chairman of Cornwall, following the school’s annual Remembrance Service.

Photograph: Crown Copyright 2012

CALLINGTON & DISTRICT

❖ Callington & District Royal British Legion Chairman David Jones presenting a cheque to the Poppy Appeal Organiser Bob Wade for £695.39. The money was raised from the St. Mary’s Church Remembrance Concert, the St. Ive Remembrance Service and the St. Mary’s Remembrance Service.

❖ Thank you to all who supported these events.

LOOE

ARMISTICE DAY CONTRIBUTION

❖ The children of Looe Primary School, aged between six and nine years, produced their contribution to Armistice Day. Their fabulous display is shown here.

❖ The children also attended the local service.

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SPITFIRE BEAUTY LAUNCHES THIS YEAR’S COUNTY POPPY APPEAL

On Thursday 25 October invited guests at RAF St Mawgan saluted the Past, Present and Future... the theme for this year’s County Poppy Appeal Launch.

Against the iconic back drop of a replica Spitfire, on this former wartime RAF Airfield and operational military base, the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall Col. Tom French launched this year’s annual campaign along with Lieutenant Commander David Braine RN, who is perhaps better known as BBC Spotlight’s weather presenter.

The VIP’s were joined by school children from local schools who are members of HMS HEROES, an organisation that is composed of children whose parents are currently serving in our Armed Forces.

With musical accompaniment by representatives from The City of Truro Pipes and Drums, and following the official launch, Squadron Leader Shaun Pascoe RAF, lead his team of Serving personnel on a Poppy Dash throughout Cornwall (see page 12). This entailed pulling a 6ft giant Poppy throughout the County, to both raise funds for the Poppy Appeal and to raise the profile of the Legion. The Servicemen pulled the giant Poppy the equivalent of six marathons - this equates to each service person’s life lost for every 500 metres covered.

Community Fundraiser Annie Binding said “Last years Appeal in Cornwall raised almost £470,000 - however, nearly all of that stayed in the County to provide support and welfare payments to those Serving and ex-Service personnel in their hour of need”.

“The principles on which the Legion was founded remain as relevant today as they were in the aftermath of World War I - in fact, they are to be found in the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant which the Legion recently helped pass into law.”

Remembrance connects what has gone before with what lies ahead - if we learn by remembering, we can shape a better future.
POPPY APPEAL

CAMBORNE

POPPY APPEAL LAUNCH

On Saturday 27 October Camborne Branch held their Poppy Appeal Launch in the Town Square. The event was officially opened by Rev’d Mike Firbank who began the proceedings by blessing the Standards and the work of Camborne Branch during the Poppy Appeal. The occasion was ably assisted by the Kernow Pipes and Drums who turned out in great numbers to play alongside the committee and volunteers in the square. The Camborne Army Cadets also turned out in force and collected around the town. The morning alone was a great success with a total of almost £1000 being collected, which set the benchmark for another great year.

POPPY APPEAL ON TARGET

This year’s Poppy Appeal has proved to be a further great success even exceeding last year’s total and is on target to surpass £15,330. This is a true testament to everyone involved from the Camborne Branch in raising the much needed funds to help the work of the Royal British Legion, which hopes to reach it’s target of £42 million this year.

POPPY SHOP OPENING

Monday 15 October saw the grand opening of Camborne Branch’s Poppy Shop. Once again one of the town’s businessmen Mr Jon Stoneman very kindly bequeathed one of his premises to the Branch for a whole month. This allowed Mrs Pam Thompson (Poppy Appeal Organiser) the opportunity of even larger premises this year to stock and sell a variety of Poppy items on behalf of the Branch’s Poppy Appeal.

Pictured are Mr Jon Stoneman handing over the keys to the shop to Vincent Young (President, Camborne Branch) along with Mrs Jean Charman (Mayor of Camborne) and Mrs Glynis Charlesworth (Chairman of Camborne Chamber of Commerce).

DELABOLE

VISIONS OF A BYGONE ERA

A shop window in Delabole was transformed during the Poppy Appeal to tell a story of what families did for entertainment during World War II; board games, cinema, and a good old sing-song.
MULLION
READY FOR OPENING

- Mullion Village Hall was transformed during November for this year’s Poppy Appeal. Mary Cooper-Brown PAO and her avid band of helpers did a fantastic job in making the hall a colourful attraction for many days during November. 210 paintings were made for the Poppy Competition, 160 of those just from the Primary School. Thanks must go to all the volunteers who helped to bring in customers for morning coffee, lunches and afternoon tea before events started that Saturday evening.

SALTASH
OCTOBER COFFE MORNING

- The Branch had a coffee morning in the Wesley Chapel, followed by the Poppy Appeal Launch with a Festival of Remembrance. Many thanks to everyone who attended. The poppy appeal currently stands at £16005.42

SALTASH WAITROSE APPRECIATION

- For collecting at Waitrose during the past few years, a Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Mr Simon Lambert, Deputy Store Manager by Mr ‘Bill’ Dent, Saltash & District Branch President and Poppy Appeal Organiser. Also present were Miss Lisa Dolly from Waitrose Community Matters and Mr Gordon Richards one of the Poppy Appeal collectors at Waitrose.

- Since the start of collecting 8 years ago over £26,566 has been raised for the Poppy Appeal.

PELYNT & LANREATH
POPPEY APPEAL CONCERT

- A very well attended and successful Poppy Appeal Concert was held on Saturday 27 October 2012 in Pelynt Church. A total of £1,175 was raised and everyone enjoyed a wonderful musical evening. The picture shows the Pelynt Male Voice Choir together with the Pelynt School Choir who joined them to make the event even more enjoyable. A total of £3180 was raised, for the Poppy Appeal in a fortnight.
PIRATES COLLECTION

- On a sunny, but cold Remembrance Sunday staff from the County Office along with four serving members from RNAS Culdrose rolled out the collection boxes at the Cornish Pirates RFU Championship Round 9 match against Rotherham. Along with the Poppy Mascot the RBL team ensured the crowd ‘remembered them’ whilst supporting their Service Personnel, and didn’t they just! The team raised a staggering £900.05 for the Poppy Appeal and this was just from half-time and full-time collections.
- A massive thank you to all involved!

Poppy Appeal Update

- The Poppy Appeal Campaign has gone very well considering the current financial climate. Many areas are up on last year’s totals with Cornwall as a whole showing 7.96% year to date. However, we are only post Poppy Appeal by three months and many organisers have various events planned over the next few months, which I am sure will bring us above last year’s totals. The County has shown increased totals year on year over the last three years - so fingers crossed for a 4th year running! This year’s Appeal coincided with school holidays; this saw an increase in visitors to the County which could explain why many PAO’s were actually running out of stock!
- All five newly appointed 1st time Poppy Appeal Organisers in Cornwall have shown an area increase. Amazingly, each and every one of them have increased Poppy Appeal totals for their areas by as much as 90% - ASTONISHING!! As well as having the Military Wives Choir singing at half-time, slap bang in the middle of a Rugby Pitch, raising nearly £2,000!, we had an appearance on Sunday Morning Breakfast TV, with presentations from a Spitfire Pilot, and the CFR lying through her teeth at a ‘Would I Lie to You’ panel game. Well done to all of them for being so adventurous with their Poppy Appeal.

- With the retirement of key players Nick Buckley, Head of Poppy Appeal and Colin Drew, Aylesford Warehouse Manager, we see the start of modernisation of the Warehouse Operation at Aylesford. The new Warehouse Manager (who has come from Amazon UK) will be looking at how stock is allocated around the Country, as it would appear that the present system is somewhat archaic - and could be the reason for stock shortages.
- After more than 20 years as PAO for Helston, Fred Pascoe has decided to hang up his PAO Badge and retire from the ‘Job’. He will however continue in his role of County Vice President. Fred’s whole family have been involved in supporting the Poppy Appeal and even remember a time when they all sat around at home fixing the leaves onto the Poppies by hand. How times have changed!

Annie Binding, CFR
The Poppy Dash

If you were driving around Cornwall at the end of October/beginning of November, you may have come across an unusual sight! Brainchild of the County Chairman Sqn Ldr Shaun Pascoe, teams from the Army, Navy and Royal Air Force pulled a 6ft x 5ft Poppy around the highways and byways of the Duchy as a mark of Remembrance and to raise awareness of the important work of the Royal British Legion.

The teams covered the equivalent of six marathons over six days. Sobering, each 500 metres covered along the Poppy Dash route was equal to every Service person’s life lost to date in Afghanistan. The event was kindly supported by Dash SW who provided a mini van during the week-long event to support the team and to provide back up.

The Poppy Dash eventually made it to Truro on Saturday 3 November to a crowd of well-wishers and The CuldRoses, Cornwall’s own Military Wives Choir on Lemon Quay. Sadly the heavens opened just as the team came into the City, however, undeterred they made their way to the crowds of Lemon Quay before members of the Riders Branch escorted them to the War Memorial on Boscawen Street where a wreath was laid. Thankfully the weather dried up and The CuldRoses managed to perform a number of songs which no doubt brought tears to the eyes of many passers by.

Despite this being an act of Remembrance, the week long event raised £2113! I think it is fair to say that Shaun and his team’s efforts didn’t go unnoticed. With constant updates on Facebook and Twitter and support from BBC Spotlight, the story of the team’s progression certainly was told. One of the team’s members worked out that approximately 90,000 people would have seen the Poppy during the week’s events!

Huge thanks must go to all those involved in this remarkable event and to all those Branches and volunteers who came out to feed the teams!

Pictured above: Day 2, arrival in Newquay. Below left: One of the team on the road. Below right: Lemon Quay, Truro.
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**Day 1** We depart the West Country to catch the Eurotunnel train to Calais and proceed to our hotel The Novotel Ypres Centre for the next 3 nights.

**Day 2 Full day Ypres and 14-18 Route**

Today we visit the Flanders Battlefields around Ypres, beginning with the ‘In Flanders Fields Museum’ followed by a guided coach excursion around the 14-18 Route, stopping at Sanctuary Wood/Hill 62 Museum, Essex Farm, Tyne Cot Cemetery and the Irish Peace Tower amongst others. Finish the day at the Menin Gate to witness the Last Post Ceremony (Every evening 8:00pm).

**Day 3 The Somme Battlefields**

Today we head into France for a full day in The Somme Battlefields. A guided tour featuring Lochnagar Crater, Thiepval Memorial, Ulster Tower and Newfoundland Park, followed by a visit to Wellington Quarries in Arras, a large system of underground tunnels used by British troops in the First World War.

**Day 4** Departing Ypres to catch the Eurotunnel train for Folkstone and the journey home, including comfort stops.

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Baby Bassett

It is with great excitement that I must inform you all that I am expecting a baby due on the 9th May! With time passing by so quickly, I’m sure her arrival will be here before we know it, so I thought I would take the opportunity to thank you all for all your contributions to the CLN since I took it over almost two years ago. I will be going on Maternity leave during April and so this sadly will be my last CLN for the next 12months! Please continue to send in your stories to Emma who I’m sure will pass on to the relevant person. As I venture into the world of motherhood I wish you all a very successful 2013.

Vicki

66 Lemon Street waves goodbye to County Manager

As many of you are aware from our feature in the Remembrance issue, Keith Naylor County Manager, has said his farewells and has retired from the Legion. As you can imagine we will all miss him very much but we shall carry on! If you do have issues that you would normally speak with Keith about then please do not hesitate in contacting the County Office where the team will endeavour to answer any questions you may have.

Keith pictured with his wife Liz.

Festival of Remembrance

The Festival of Remembrance 2012 DVD is now available for sale on the Poppy Shop. Price is £10.75 and postage is £2.95, however we are offering The Poppy Days book FREE for every order over £25 (includes postage).

If our supporters, members and volunteers do not want to order online they can call the following number - 0300 1239 110 and order over the phone.

Easter Cards

Branded Easter Cards (packs of 8) are also available on the Poppy Shop.
The Cornwall Royal British Legion Riders Branch called in at Tideford Legion with 21 bikes one Saturday morning. They were greeted by Mandy Fleckney the Tideford & St Germans Branch Vice-Chairman and Sue Murch the Membership Secretary who served them with teas, coffees and biscuits before waving them off on their way. They visited every Legion Club in the County, completing their Ride Out at Newlyn that evening. This is an annual fundraising event which also helps raise awareness of the work of the Legion. Their Captain Steve Allen said they had a great day and was delighted with the support he got from his members.

They certainly made an impressive sight as they set off in convoy along the A38. One man and his machine was left behind with a flat battery but villagers were able to produce a set of jump leads and soon got him going so he could catch up with the others as they headed towards Tywardreath.

Pictured outside Tideford & St Germans Club
Falklands Trip

After an eight hour delay at Ascension Island due to bad weather in the Falkland Islands, we were met by our host families on 8 November, who looked after us for the week.

On the Friday we had an early start and were transported in a group of 20 Land Rovers to San Carlos Cemetery travelling through a howling blizzard!! We awaited the arrival of the Duke of Kent (by helicopter!), and after a short service he placed his wreath followed by the veterans. I laid our HMS Ardent wreath on behalf of our Association. Over the next few days our hosts and drivers took us to all the main battle sites plus wildlife sightseeing.

On Monday 12, arrangements were made for me to travel by ferry to HMS Ardent’s resting place. I was accompanied by two ex-HMS Yarmouth’s crew who actually helped to rescue us when we sank, and came for moral support.

Father Peter (the Roman Catholic priest of Stanley, an ex-Submariner) came and gave a moving short service. I laid another wreath and threw Poppy petals onto the water. Following this we were taken to Goose Green.

We also paraded on Remembrance Sunday to the Cross of Sacrifice, where the Falkland Islanders who lost their lives in the First and Second World Wars are remembered. We also paraded to the Memorial commemorating those who lost their lives during the liberation of the Islands in 1982. Each name was read out which took almost 15 minutes.

A trip I will never forget especially the way the Islanders could not thank us enough for what we did all those years ago, and they are so determined to remain British.

Peter Rowe, Launceston Branch President
The 92nd Annual Cornwall RBL County Conference took place in the Council Chamber of County Hall, Truro on Sunday 13 January 2013, and not only played host to a substantial number of Delegates and their guests from around the County, but a newly elected County Chairman, Squadron Leader Shaun Pascoe MSc PMRAFNS.

This prestigious event in the RBL calendar was celebrated in fine style with Branch Standard Bearers lining the Council Chamber as the honoured guests and VIP’s took their seats in preparation for the afternoon’s events. Col E Bolitho OBE, the Legion County President, welcomed the Guest Speaker, Sapper Lyndon Chatting-Walters, who gave an extremely emotive and inspirational presentation on his life in the Service, his injuries sustained in combat and the assistance the Legion had provided him during his long road to recovery.

Apart from the normal AGM business, the Delegates were able to present questions to the Membership Council Representative, Mr R Garratt on issues close to their hearts; the Membership.

Amongst the many awards presented, the County Chairman awarded the County Chairman’s Standard Cup. This year the very worthy recipients were The Design Place, headed by Mr Alan Brooke. The team have formed great relations with TRBL Cornwall in recent years, and in doing so aided the Legion immensely both locally and nationally. They have provided the Cornwall Branches and Clubs with an opportunity to enhance awareness and advertise the great work they do. Moreover the team have supplied Cornwall RBL with a professional publication providing an outlet to help spread the good work of the Legion.

The annual County Conference is a major shop window for the Legion’s work and mission in the County and gives the membership an opportunity of renewing their ties with their colleagues from other Branches throughout Cornwall. As the leading charity for safeguarding the interests, welfare and memory of those who have served in the Armed Forces, particularly relevant at this time with our Forces currently serving in Afghanistan, it is a golden opportunity of celebrating all that is good about the Royal British Legion.
Poppy Calls Interview

Ian Woodhead reveals all about the Poppy Calls Service

What did you do before taking up employment with the Legion?

I served in the Royal Navy (Fleet Air Arm - Aircraft Handler) for 34 years. I joined as a Junior Naval Airman 2nd Class in 1972 and retired from the Navy in 2006 as Warrant Officer 1st Class. On retiring from the Service in 2006 I did voluntary work before taking up the post with the RBL/Poppy Calls in October 2008.

What was your understanding of the Royal British Legion?

Not as much then as I do now! As a serving Matelot (Sailor) my understanding was limited to knowledge about the RBL Social Clubs, which I used to frequent. As a young sailor I was often detailed off to march at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday and at times, if I was really lucky, I would attend the Royal Albert Hall for the Remembrance Service. Regrettably, like many from my generation I associated the RBL with buying a Poppy and drinking in the local RBL Club. However, I now realise there is a whole lot more to the RBL than just wearing the Poppy! Much, much more!

What were your expectations of working within ‘Poppy Calls’?

This may sound a bit cheesy but I really wanted to help improve people’s lives. I knew, having spoken to members of the Ex-Forces community, that there was, and still remains, a need and demand for a ‘Handy Person’ service; the voluntary work I did before I took up post proved this. I am responsible to a higher authority as a Poppy Calls Fitter, we all are, but as Cornwall’s Handy Person Fitter I am very much left to my own devices. I’m in charge of what I do. I’m given the training, the van, the kit, the common-sense (I had that bit already) to deliver a professional, safe and reliable service to the beneficiaries’ of Cornwall. To a certain degree it feels like I’m giving something back to those men and women that proudly served this great Country and County we all live in. I feel a great sense of pride and satisfaction when I’ve helped someone regardless of the job. I learnt very early on that there are no silly jobs. There is always a valid reason as to why you’re doing the job and that reason is simple; the beneficiary needs help. I am proud to say that I provide that help.

Briefly describe a ‘day in the life’ of a Poppy Calls Fitter.

Every day is different; no two days are the same, even if it’s the same task. Why? Because I’m visiting different people. My day(s) are planned in advance, normally the week before. All my jobs are co-ordinated by the controller responsible for my area, Debbie Lane; who is located at Poppy Calls Headquarters (PCHQ) in Huntingdon. Referrals are received from either a Caseworker, Case Coordinator (Adult Social Care), the County Office Truro, self referral or through a friend or member of the family. Anyone can make a referral by phoning 01480 423895.

Jobs are then conveyed to me, via email, to my laptop or if it is a short notice job I will receive a call. Having noted the details I usually make an initial assessment to identify if purchases of material are required. Contact is then made with the beneficiary informing them of my suggested ETA. On arrival, a further assessment is always completed to ensure that the correct equipment is at hand. I drive the length and breadth of the County to deliver the 100% accountable service. The job can be protracted or merely simply changing a light bulb. It could take me two minutes or two hours to travel to the job (I also get called to cover Plymouth) or just two minutes or two hours to undertake the work, but any job is just as important as the next.
Throughout the job it is sometimes obvious that other work needs to be completed; therefore, if time permits and it is within my remit, I will ensure that all the work is undertaken to avoid a return visit. Following completion, I will ensure that all relevant information regarding the job is logged and sent to my controller. Depending on the type and length of time it takes me to complete a job, I could have up to five plus jobs in a day.

Who is eligible for ‘Poppy Calls’ assistance?
This is a very good question, and it always amazes me of the amount of people out there in Cornwall who think that they are not eligible for the service because he or she only did National Service!!! These are exactly the people that the service was created for. Anyone who has completed seven days paid Service in the Armed Forces (either 70 years ago or seven weeks ago) qualifies for Poppy Calls assistance, including their spouse/partner and dependents (up to age of 18). Additionally, those individuals who completed National Service or Served within a conflict zone in the Royal Fleet Auxiliary or Merchant Navy also qualify. Eligibility for any RBL assistance is based on an individual basis and that individual does not have to be a member of the Royal British Legion to qualify.

What is the most difficult part of your job?
The job was created to provide a low level maintenance service. That basically means I do the jobs around the home that people cannot do any more, either through age or disability or they just haven’t got the tools or wherewithal to do the work. The job in its self is not difficult. However, there are some practical constraints that occasionally prevent me from carrying out the job. In particular, when the beneficiary is, perhaps, given the wrong information about what Poppy Calls is capable of achieving. I would suggest the hardest part is spreading the word about the service and making people aware that they don’t have to struggle to replace the light bulb that they can no longer reach; why risk harming yourself by falling off the chair when you could have picked up the phone to Poppy Calls? Beneficiaries should never feel guilty about making the call, it is their entitlement.

What is the most enjoyable part of your job?
Simple - I enjoy my job. I like meeting the people and achieving the aims of the job in hand, along with the many challenges faced along the way. I enjoy being part of Team Cornwall (the County Office Team) and I enjoy being part of ‘Team Poppy Calls’. It’s a good organisation to work for; out of one uniform into another - love it.

If you were given the opportunity to change any aspect of your job, what would it be and why?
A high top van like the one I used to have. Sadly, I keep banging my head on the new one! My own fault though, I need to slow down and switch on. On a serious note, there is very little I would change about my job. Whilst I do believe the Legion has an upward struggle to change the public perception of who we are and what we are able to provide, if I was able to make positive changes it would be to effectively create a media campaign raising the awareness of Poppy Calls. As an example, a leaflet advertising the service but also incorporating a photograph of the ‘fitter’ specific to the county/area with contact details. This could be seen to act as a pre-notification of who to expect at the appointment and, perhaps, provide the client with a sense of security (amongst other things).

For more information about the Poppy Calls service please contact the County Office:
The Royal British Legion, 66 Lemon Street, Truro, Cornwall TR1 2PN.
Telephone: 01872 260577
or Email: Cornwall@britishlegion.org.uk
It is with great sadness that the RBL Cornwall announces the deaths of the following Royal British Legion members:

❖ Surgeon Vice Admiral Sir Godfrey Milton-Thompson KBE. KStJ. President of the Menheniot Branch.

Sir Godfrey passed away peacefully at home on the 23 September 2012 aged 82, with his close family around him. He took a short service commission in 1955. His first appointment was Malta and on his return to England was appointed Assistant MO at Chatham Dockyard. He took a regular commission and specialised as a physician. Spells of duty followed in Plymouth and again in Malta. He was appointed as Professor of Naval Medicine and elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians. His chosen field was Gastroenterology and specifically the serious condition of Duodenal Ulcers from which many people at that time were dying. He formed and led a research team which contributed greatly to the development of drugs such as Zantac, which have now all but eliminated this deadly condition.

He was promoted through the ranks of Surgeon Captain and Surgeon Commodore. In 1982 he was appointed as Queen’s Honorary Physician. At the same time he had the responsibility as Deputy Medical Director General for organising the medical support for the Falklands taskforce and the training of the doctors who travelled with it. This task he carried out with great distinction and in 1984 he was promoted to Rear Admiral (the third member of the family to achieve flag rank). He succeeded to the rank of Surgeon General, the Chief of all Defence Medical Services and was knighted in 1988.

In 1989 he was made a Knight of the Order of St. John, making a huge contribution over the next 20 years and served as Chairman of the St. John Council for Cornwall, which runs the Ambulance and First Aid training, for over 10 years. The Order funds and maintains St. John Eye Hospital in Jerusalem. Sir Godfrey served with distinction as the Hospitaller of the hospital charity. His funeral donations were for this cause realising over £2000.

On his retirement he supervised the restoration in Menheniot Churchyard, the tomb of Capt. John Richards Lapenotiere, the Captain of HMS Pickles who brought the news of the Battle of Trafalgar to England.

We salute him and mourn his passing.

❖ The Tintagel Branch are sad to report the passing of Mr. D. Hamer, Branch Chairman, at the age of 83. Derek had been the Chairman since 1997. He was a dedicated member of the Legion and worked hard to keep the Branch in the public eye until his illness in the last two years, which he braved very well. Derek served in the Royal Navy of which he was very proud. During his illness he was supported by Jean and our sympathies and prayers go to her and the rest of the family.
Mrs S Mudge, Mrs M Lowe, Mr A Law and Rev’d B Kinsmew all of Padstow Branch

Mr R Mitchell and Mr S Hooper both of Wadebridge Branch

Mr L Clarke of Saltash & District Branch

Mr E Boddy of Bodmin Branch

Mr M Solt, Mr L Butters and Mr T Page all of Looe Branch

Mr B Fishlock, Mr B Mason and Mr B Bradley all of Truro Branch

Mr J Barson, Mr T Lawrance and Mrs I Potter all of Stithians Branch

Mr D Richards, Mr W Poulton, Mr D Turtle and Mr A Donaldson all of Newlyn West Branch

Mr W Thomas of St Just Branch

Mr C Bellamy of Pelynt & Lanreath Branch

Mr J Honywill of Liskeard Branch

Mr P Conway of Launceston Branch

Mr R Clark of Bude & Stratton Branch

Mr F Reed of Delabole Branch

Our sincere condolences go to all their families and friends.

Donations Received

On behalf of the County Chairman and Committee please accept our sincere thanks for the following very kind donations made to either the Welfare Fund (WF), Poppy Appeal (PA) or General Fund (GF):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Branch</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Type</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tywardreath Branch</td>
<td>£500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Perranwell Station Branch</td>
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<td>WF</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funeral - Mr Pond</td>
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<td>Funeral - Rev Barrington</td>
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Barripper 1940’s Tea Dance

The village of Barripper was transported back to the Second World War during November. The Chapel was decorated with bunting for a 1940’s afternoon Tea Dance attended by around 80 people. There was a raffle, a wartime cake auction and Pamela Ironside and her daughter from Redruth gave ballroom dancing demonstrations and lessons. Members of the WWII Re-enactment South West displayed ‘Home Front’. Re-enactors and members of the public dressed in an array of wartime uniforms and civilian dress.

Refreshments of sandwiches, cake and tea and coffee was provided. An impressive range of military vehicles were on display, including a 1942 Dodge Ambulance, a Dodge Armoured Personnel Carrier, a 1939 Naffi Van, a Gaz Russian Army Jeep, a Willy’s 1944 Jeep, a Wartime Military Motorcycle, and a Russian Command Vehicle. Rosettes up to sixth place and a winners cup saw Trevelyan Drew take first prize for his Dodge Personnel Carrier, Chris Dunn with his motorcycle, Sharon Dunn with her Gaz, and Bertie the Naffi van owned by Liz and Steve Lane in fourth place. In the evening the St Michael’s Mount Inn was the scene for a ‘Swing Jive’ where people danced all evening. A lovely buffet was laid on and a loose change whip round took place at the end of the evening. £157.13 was raised for the Royal British Legion Camborne Branch.

A day to remember
by the Late Mrs Ann Reed of Helston

I think we should remember those boys of long ago, who joined the ranks and went away to fight against the foe.

Their bravery outstanding it cannot be compared, and widows left behind them with just memories they shared.

We cannot just forget them they’re heroes every one, they do much for their homeland father-brother-son.

So every year it comes around a day we much remember, so buy a poppy, and lay a wreath, on the 11th of November.
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Mr & Mrs Dungey, Redruth

"My house has never been so warm and I am delighted with the appearance and efficiency of the product. Your installation team were a pleasure to meet and have working in my house. They were quick, efficient, clean and acted like true professionals."

Brian Smith, Devon.

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