



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



SPRING 2014

SOMERSET AND BRISTOL

POPPY

NEWS

Hello

I hope this finds you well and enjoying the sunshine!

So much is happening in Somerset and Bristol this year so overleaf I will give you a run down of the events I know about. However, first of all some great news, we have overtaken last year's grand total already! To date you have raised £923,999 for the 2013/14 Poppy Appeal .. a big "well done" to everyone!!

Next ... The Annual Somerset and Bristol Poppy Forum .. No it's not being held inside Wells Cathedral.. but I have organised a free guided tour in the afternoon for those who are interested (normally costs £6).



The format of the day will be:

9.30 – 10.15 am Arrival at Wells Town Hall, in the central Market Place for Coffee and Biscuits

10.15 – 12.30 pm Presentations and Questions

12.30 – 1.00 pm Comfort Break

1.00 - 2.15 pm 2 course Buffet Lunch

2.45 pm Guided Tour of Wells Cathedral

There is plenty of parking; I have found 5 car parks within a 5 minute walk and another 5 within 10 minutes.

For those of you on-line have a look at http://en.parkopedia.co.uk/parking/wells_somerset_ba5/

It would be great to see as many of you there as possible. Please do bring along your Deputy, a valued collector or your "other half" if they are involved in the Appeal .. they will be very welcome but please note I will need final numbers by Friday 30th May.

This year our main speaker will be Tom Robbins, Campaign Manager of the Centenary Commemorations, who will tell us all about The Royal British Legion's forthcoming plans and events for the next 4 years to commemorate the centenary of WW1. We will meet some of the beneficiaries of all your hard work, including a representative from Battle Back and hear from the Welfare Team; as well as all the updates for the forthcoming 2014 Poppy Appeal, so please get your names in asap!

EVENTS IN SOMERSET AND BRISTOL TO SUPPORT THE POPPY APPEAL

- Friday 9th May Somerset and Bristol Charity Golf Day – Worlebury Golf Club, Weston-s-Mare (a few tees still available so come on you golfers – contact me!)
- Saturday 10th May Bath Abbey – Karl Jenkins “The Armed Man” – performed by 120 choristers and a full orchestra to commemorate the centenary of WW1 - this will be WONDERFUL! Tickets available from Bath Box Office, on line or phone 01225 463 362
- Wednesday 28th - Saturday 31st May The Royal Bath and West Show – Poppy Appeal and County will both have a stand
- Friday 6th June 7pm Watchet Royal British Legion Club – Presentation on WW1 by Darran Berry who is not only very knowledgeable, is good fun and also the PAO for Bishops Lydeard! There will also be experts on hand to help you to research your family history.
- Saturday 7th June Winsford Coffee Morning with a variety of Stalls
- Friday 13th June 2014 Poppy Forum - Wells Town Hall
- Saturday 14th – Sunday 15th Forces Day Gathering, Henstridge
- Saturday 21st June Weston-super-Mare Armed Forces Day
- Saturday 28th June Wincanton Armed Forces and Fun Day, Millers Arms
- Sunday 29th June Bristol Armed Forces Day
- Friday 4th July RBL Dance - Hutton
- Saturday 5th July East Coker Village Fete
- Saturday 19th – Sunday 20th July Bristol Harbour Festival – Bristol Poppy Appeal Organisers will be there!
- Saturday 26th July Yeovilton Airday – Poppy Appeal will be here too!
- Sunday 27th July Backalong Avalon, supporting Burnham-on-Sea Poppy Appeal
- Monday 4th August St Mary Redcliffe Church, Bristol – a very special evening to commemorate the start of WW1 – more information will be forthcoming
- Saturday 9th August Dunkirk Memorial House Summer Fayre – Taunton Poppy Appeal there
- Friday 15th August Dunster Show – Minehead Poppy Appeal will be there!
- Friday 22nd August – Sunday 24th August Watchet Music Festival – Watchet Poppy Appeal will be there!
- Sunday 31st August Bristol Poppy Walk and Ride around the Harbourside, starting at 11 am And visiting several hostelryes along the way! Bring a picnic ..

Sunday 14th Sept Bristol Dragon Boat Race on the Harbourside

Sunday 12th October Minehead Poppy Appeal Golf Day

Friday 24th October **The Somerset and Bristol 2014 Poppy Launch**
“The Evacuation”



The 2014 Evacuation of Somerset and Bristol Royal British Legion ... To the Seaside!

Norton Manor Steam Engine and Carriages will be decorated with Poppies and departing from Bishops Lydeard Station at 11am ..bound for Minehead to launch the 2014 Poppy Appeal.

Join us for a journey of surprises .. there will be fun .. there will be music .. there will be ration packs .. (don't worry, there will also be lunch at Minehead Golf Club and transport there is provided !) .. and so much more!

Tickets are priced at £10 each to cover costs. So dress up or dress down, in WW1 clothing if you would like to and climb aboard for a very memorably journey returning at 5.00 pm back at Bishops Lydeard.

Tickets must be paid for by cheque in advance, made payable to The RBL Poppy Appeal and sent to me, Sue Potepa, 4 Tremlett Mews, Worle, Weston-super-Mare, North Somerset BS22 7LY by the end of August.

Saturday 25th Oct Treasure Hunt to launch Burnham-on-Sea Poppy Appeal

Thursday 6th Nov Bristol Poppy Day

Saturday 15th Nov Poppy Dance with WW2 music at The Ritz, Burnham-on-Sea

Also I have been asked to mention the following:

Monday 5th May The Family 5k at Arnos Vale Cemetary – This is in support of the Cemetary but I hope in the future we will be working together on a project
<http://www.arnosvale.org.uk/fitness-dance-listings/eventdetail/370/-/the-family-5k-2014>

Cadets

I have been asked by John Headford, The Somerset County Youth and Affiliation Officer if you would please supply him with last year's totals from your Poppy Appeal Collections raised by Cadets. He would also like you to keep a separate record for him in future as we hope to initiate an awards scheme for them.

His contact details are: jheadford@aol.com or telephone 01934 822980

Counting Machines

For those of you who have counting machines, can you please let me know by 30th May if yours needs to? be serviced by an Engineer so we can do them at the same time.

E Mail

If you have received this hard copy and you have an email address please let me have it!
spotepa@britishlegion.org.uk it will save money!

Poppy Picnics

Saturday 24th May Iceland launch their support for The RBL Poppy Appeal and plan to raise £1 million!
Promotion of Poppy Picnic materials will be in every store if you fancy participating.

Somerset Carnival Dates

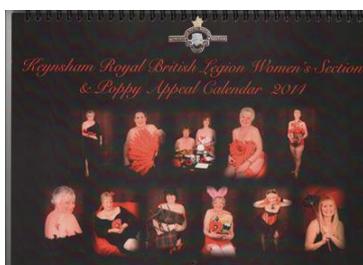


The poster features two unicorn illustrations flanking the text 'Unicorn Carnival Club' in a colorful, stylized font. Below this, the title '2014 Carnival Dates' is prominently displayed. A table lists the dates, start times, and locations for each event. At the bottom, a note states: 'All Additional Road Crew, Volunteers & Collectors to arrive minimum 1 hr before Start time.'

Date	Start Time	Location
20 th September	19.00 hrs	Frome
27 th September	19.30 hrs	Wellington
04 th October	19.15 hrs	Ilminster
11 th October	19.15 hrs	Chard
18 th October	19.00 hrs	Taunton
01 st November	19.00 hrs	Bridgwater
03 rd November	19.30 hrs	Burnham/Highbridge
07 th November	19.15 hrs	Weston Super Mare
08 th November	19.00 hrs	North Petherton
10 th November	t.b.e.	Midsomer Norton
12 th November	19.30 hrs	Shepton Mallet
14 th November	19.00 hrs	Wells
15 th November	19.00 hrs	Glastonbury

All Additional Road Crew, Volunteers & Collectors to arrive minimum 1 hr before Start time.

Please note your local carnival date, to discuss arrangements for collecting this year please contact Suzi Heale on 07585 621769 or email paotaunton@btinternet.com please note - Suzi will be organising all support and answering any queries re the carnival, not myself this year.



I need to mention a BIG THANK YOU to The Keynsham RBL Women's Section who have donated £700 from the sale of their calendar to Keynsham Poppy Appeal!

HOW ABOUT THIS FOR AN IDEA FOR YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL ?

Take a look at this website:

www.footballforthefallen.co.uk



Last year on Remembrance Sunday CHILDREN from Chewton Mendip Primary School re-enacted the legendary World War One Christmas day football match. There were two matches, one for the younger children and one for the older children. A parent from the school, Mr Brown, thought it would be nice if the children could re-enact the 1914 Christmas truce and the children all had shirts bearing the names of those who had fallen from the local villages in the two World Wars. The children fundraised £10 each for their shirts, of this £10, £3.50 went to the Royal British Legion and the rest went towards the shirts; over £100 was donated to the British Legion following the event.

Also, if you would like a Poppy badge for a football kit please look at:

www.poppies4kits.co.uk

Somerset marks The Centenary of WW1



These beautiful memorial kneelers have been produced by Valerie Norton for St Mary's Church, Bruton I thought you would like to see and hear about them ..

Valerie says - As an amateur military historian, my husband has taken me to see many fields of conflict throughout Europe and particularly Northern France. The poignant sight of rows of gravestones provided by the CWGC have moved us both greatly and finding the memorials of relatives who were involved has been very special. One of my family fell at Arras.

On one of many visits to Ypres, in Belgium, we visited St Georges Memorial Church, dedicated to the fallen and I was very impressed by the many wonderful regimental memorial kneelers which add great beauty and dignity to the church.

As 2014, the 100th anniversary of World War 1 is due, it came to me that the fallen young men of Bruton deserved such a touching tribute inside the church and not only on the war memorial outside. So I researched all the family coats of arms, regimental connections, family associations and places of remembrance connected with these young Brutonians and then created kneelers with the poppy motif to commemorate their sacrifice.

Each kneeler takes about 10 days to complete, with about 25,000 stitches in each, and these special kneelers are ones that I have designed and completed myself.

In addition, a book of remembrance is being compiled with the details of each serviceman to be kept in the Church for reference and the British Legion has been of great assistance in providing additional information and encouragement.

Somerset and Bristol Fundraising

As you will know I have been covering both Somerset and Bristol for two and half years now. It is a large and diverse area and it has finally been agreed that there needs to be 2 fundraisers to do this. The Legion will be advertising for a new CFR to cover Bristol and I will remain in Somerset .. but still very much in touch with my friends in Bristol! Hopefully this will give you more time and support from your often worn-out CFR!

and finally.... Is this the youngest Poppy Appeal Collector in Somerset?



Mary Farmer - aged 5 – helping her grandmother, a collector for many years in the Newtown area of Buckland St Mary.

Enjoy the Bank Holiday!
Best wishes, Sue x

Sue Potepa
CFR Somerset and Bristol
spotepa@britishlegion.org.uk Tel: 07768 794939