



Gloucestershire Poppy Appeal Update

April 2014

Welcome to the second edition of the 2014 Gloucestershire Poppy Appeal Newsletter. Firstly a big THANK YOU for all your hard work and the dedication you show to The Royal British Legion. The Poppy Appeal collection in Gloucestershire currently stands at **£695,886**. WELL DONE!

A number of third parties will be holding various activities across our county to raise funds for the Poppy Appeal. We will try to keep you as up to date with these as possible but if you have access to the internet, please do watch our Poppy Appeal Glos Facebook page or contact Nicole Mayall, your Community Fundraiser on 07919 881131 for further details. A full diary of events is listed on the back page of the Newsletter. If you are holding an event or have held an event you think will be of interest to others in the county, please do send the details to Nicole.

The New Scout Poppy Badge



Following talks with the County Commissioner, Paul Trott of the Gloucester Scouts, the Poppy Badge is to be introduced in the county. We are delighted to say that the Scouts have been extremely supportive and keen to get involved. The new badges will be available from this appeal and Scouts can start working towards their badges straight away.

There is a range of different activities they can choose from but to earn the badge they all need to attend a Remembrance Day Service, understand why poppies are worn and help to raise funds for the Poppy Appeal by supporting the local appeal or organising their own event. They can also put together displays about WW1, invite the RBL to speak at their meetings, research Scouts from their local area who have been commemorated in wartime, amongst other things.

These badges are not part of their compulsory badge range and are at the discretion of the local scout leader. We have obtained a list of the local scout groups and I will be contacting those of you with a group in your area to ensure you are happy for us to pass them your details.

Lest We Forget

Hartpury Drama Group is currently working on a new production called *Lest We Forget* and have very kindly donated all the ticket income for the first performance on Wednesday 21st May to The Royal British Legion. The production includes *Oh What a Lovely War* and *Black Adder Goes Forth* but they have also looked into a history of the surrounding areas including Hartpury, Corse Lawn and Maisemoore. The performance includes details on how the local communities were affected by the First World War, those that left to fight for their county but never returned.

This promises to be a very informative, powerful and entertaining evening. Please help support this event and talk to your volunteers about the performance. Tickets are £7:50 each and are available through Nicole Mayall 07919 881131, nmayall@britishlegion.org.uk or Angela Darnley on 07789 875215, adarnley@britishlegion.org.uk.





14-18 Legacy Project

This project was introduced in our last Newsletter and is going from strength to strength. Peter Rowland, the founder of the project, was invited to Westminster to speak at a national conference on “Schools and the Great War”. The conference was chaired by Dr Anthony Seldon, and the guest speakers included Dr Andrew Murrison MP, Jeremy Paxman and Ian Hislop. Peter Rowland was asked to speak about the support the pupils in Gloucestershire gave the Royal British Legions during our 90th year and how he is hoping this new initiative will be rolled out nationwide. During Peter’s presentation he showed a short film, made in the half term at Severn Vales School, showing how other schools can get involved. If you have access to the internet, you can view this video at <http://counties.britishlegions.org.uk/projects/14-18-legacy>.



The project, aimed at Secondary Schools, is due to be launched during Armed Forces Day in Gloucester Docks on the 21st June and followed by a week of fundraising across local schools which will be covered by Gloucestershire Media, who produce the Echo and Citizen.

It is great to have such a fantastic project being launch here in Gloucestershire. This project is not just about fundraising for The Royal British but educating young people about the work of the Royal British Legion, looking back at the past to help shape the future.

Fundraising Events around the County:

Stoke Gifford Branch had a great evening on 29th March with the Cats Pyjamas singing Trio,(pictured). The night was well supported by the local public and they put their hands in their pockets and purses’ to help the Poppy Appeal pot to be increased by another £762.00, bringing the total Poppy Appeal collection for Stoke Gifford Branch to £33,114.40 for the year. A very big thank you to you all who supported this event.



Lydney held their annual concert again in February with great success. The line up this year included Cinderford Town Band, T.S. Royal Forest and A.T.C Corp of Drums display and two local school choirs who performed beautifully. St. John’s on the Hill and Wollaston School Choirs together with Rock band Rusty Shackle also performed the song they have written about War, *Tommy’s Letter*. The concert was attended by members of the RBL, Deputy Lord Lieutenant, John Thurston and representatives from 1st Rifles and MOD. The evening raised £606 for the Poppy Appeal.

Hardwicke & District held a 60s & 70s Night in March. One hundred and thirty one tickets were sold and members of all ages from 18 through to 92 years old were in attendance from a number of branches from as far away as Cinderford! Hardwicke and District raised £819:10 for The Poppy Appeal from the event which included their famous “Sausages for Soldiers” Hot Dog Kiosk and Raffle. Their next Branch 60s 70s Night will be on Friday 29th August 2014 which will again be in aid of The Poppy Appeal.





New All Year Round Collecting Tins

Hopefully you are all aware of the All Year Collecting tins that we have available for businesses wishing to collect for the Legion outside the two week appeal. Each county is being asked to trial a new design of tin, which will also include the 14-18 pins and record the revenue these generate.

Poppy Appeal Volunteers Urgently Needed

We still have a number of positions to fill for Gloucestershire's Poppy Appeal. If you know of anyone living in or near these areas who may be happy to get involved please do pass their details on to Nicole Mayall, Community Fundraiser on 07919 881131 or email on nmayall@britishlegion.org.uk.

We are looking for new organisers in the following areas:

- Andoversford, Cotswolds
- Meysey Hampton, Cotswolds
- Stroud, a deputy PAO is needed
- Newent, Forest of Dean
- Slimbridge, Stroud

Recycle Your Old Ink Cartridges and Mobile Phone to help Support The Poppy Appeal



The Royal British Legion has partnered with The Recycling Factory to turn your unwanted mobile phones and empty inkjet and toner cartridges into cash that will support our serving and ex-service personnel and their families. Recycling your old mobile phones, inkjet and toner cartridges as well as old electronic gadgets (sat navs, digital cameras, electronic games consoles and digital cameras) will help raise vital funds for The Royal British Legion.

The Royal British Legion (Charity no. 219279) will receive up to £4.50 for every inkjet cartridge and toner successfully recycled and up to £30.00 for every mobile phone successfully recycled. Please visit the website <http://www.therecyclingfactory.com/britishlegion> for more details, call The Recycling Factory on 0800 091 0696 or e-mail rbl@trf-uk.com It's as easy as 1,2,3!

1. Request our freepost envelopes
2. Send your items into The Recycling Factory FREE
3. The Royal British Legion will receive up to £4.50 for every cartridge that is successfully recycled

Welfare Update



Jayne Burbanks, Case Officer South West Region

Since the changes brought in from the *Path Way to Growth* scheme, our Welfare Team is pleased to announce the introduction of two new "Pop In" centres:

- Tewkesbury Royal British Legion Branch, every Wednesday between 11am and 3pm
- Lydney Royal British Legion Branch every Thursday between 10am and 2pm.

These are a great opportunity for people from the local service community, looking for help or guidance to talk with our welfare team face to face. This is in addition to the new Contact Centre helpline on 0808 802 8080, which is available to beneficiaries from 8am to 8pm, 7 days a week (calls are free from UK landlines and main mobile networks). There are still plans to open more "pop in" centres across the county and the new flagship Regional Office will be opening in Bristol shortly.



National News

Every Man Remembered



1,117,077 Commonwealth Service men and women were killed during the First World War. The losses were felt in almost every town and village in the UK and throughout what was then the British Empire.

The Royal British Legion, working in partnership with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, would like to see each and every one of these men and women individually commemorated throughout the WW1 centenary years. *Every Man Remembered* is an opportunity for the public to be part of a great collective Act of Remembrance.

The inspiration for *Every Man Remembered* came from 14-yr old Gemma who contacted us following a battlefield tour of France and Belgium with her local scout group. "I know that not everyone can be remembered as individuals, but I felt it was a shame for some people to have dozens of poppies and crosses while others had no one left to remember them."

We have launched a teaser for the full website that will go live in a few months. You will then be able to select a casualty to remember and leave

a message, image, dedication etc.

TV Historian Dan Snow is working with the Legion on this exciting new 5-year project. If you have access to a computer you can watch a short introductory video at <http://www.everymanremembered.org/> where you can also sign up to be kept informed of the project.

As the Custodian of Remembrance, The Royal British Legion will be leading the nation in honouring each and every sacrifice made. It is an opportunity for us to come together and reaffirm our commitment to stand shoulder to shoulder with all who serve today.

Centenary Poppy Campaign

The Centenary Poppy Campaign originated as an idea in the Greenhithe and Swanscombe Branch of the Legion. It captured the imagination of the public, including the Prime Minister, and is now being rolled out nationally.

The aim of the campaign is to cover the UK with poppies during the centenary period in commemoration of all those who lost their lives in the First World War. The national campaign, which is being run in partnership with retailer B&Q, will see the Legion asking the public and local authorities to purchase Flanders poppy seeds to plant on their own land.

The Royal British Legion's Director of Fundraising, Charles Byrne, said: "The idea to distribute poppy seeds to commemorate the centenary of WW1 originated with Legion members in the Greenhithe and Swanscombe Branch and we are delighted that this campaign has gained nationwide recognition. We want to see members of the public making this campaign their own in their local communities, working in collaboration with local government, schools and community groups, and we will be taking discussions forward with central Government to engrain this campaign in the centenary commemorations."

Poppy seeds are available nationwide from outlets of B&Q with a donation of £1 going towards the work of the Legion. The seeds should be found at the customer service desk in your local B&Q store. Any queries should be directed to B&Q customer services at b-and-qcustomerservices@b-and-q.co.uk or 0845 609 6688.



Diary of Events 2014

If you are planning an event for 2014 please let Nicole know so that can be promoted, Contact details below:

31 March – 5 April, The Two Worlds of Charlie F to start new UK tour Forum Theatre Malvern Tel. 01684 892 277 for bookings

21st May Hartpury Drama Group Production “Lest we Forget” includes extracts from “Oh What a Lovely War” and “Black Adder goes Forth”. Tickets are £7.50 each, available from Nicole Mayall.

6th June, Steaming to Victory. The steam train will run from Birmingham to Gloucester and back with an event at the Guildhall in Gloucester. For more details please contact Tel: 0121 708 Email office@vintagetrains.co.uk . This event will be supporting the RBL by holding a collection on the train.

21st June Armed Forces Day at Gloucester Docks, Drum Head Service will be held at College Green at 12noon. A procession will then lead to the Docks to celebrate our Armed Forces Community. Public event all welcome.

25th June the RBLWS will be showing a short film on WW1 followed by a Hog Roast - Masonic Hall, Cirencester, 6.30 for 7pm and tickets £10. Tickets are available from Eileen Chapman on Tel: 01285 643530 or E Mail eileenchapman02@btinternet.com

26th June Gloucester Guildhall 2.00pm “Songs That Won The War” for tickets please contact the Guild Hall on 01452 503050

28th June National Armed Forces Day

28th June - A TIME TO REMEMBER, Newent Community School, 1900 to 2200 hrs

29th June We Salute You, Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury. For Tickets please contact the Roses Theatre on Box Office 01684 295074

29th June Hardwicke Armed Forces Day

19th July Cathedral Concert, Military Wives Choir and Churchdown Male Voice Choir

1st,,2nd and 3rd August – Royal British Legion stand at Steam Extravaganza Cirencester (helpers needed)

28th August Annual Poppy Appeal Organisers Conference, Highnam Court. The meeting will be held in the morning followed by lunch and an opportunity to explore the beautiful private gardens.

29th August Hardwicke & District Branch 60s 70s Night. Tickets on sale soon at £5 a head from the Hardwicke Branch.

20th September Hardwicke Branch travelling to Ypres Branch 28km Honour walk through the former battlefields.

20th September and the 4th October 2014. County Committee Member Scott Temlett and Mark Bailey, a colleague from the RAF are raising funds for the RBL and RAFA by climbing Kilimanjaro and Mount Kenya

26th October, Poppy Concert Cirencester, Details to follow

24th October Tan House Singers St Catherine’s Church, Gloucester

End Oct – Hardwicke Poppy Plod, details will follow.

8th November Philomusica Concert Tewkesbury Abbey, details will follow.

22nd November, Darts Tournament, Cirencester, details will follow.

If you would like to get involved or support any of the above events please contact Nicole Mayall, 07919 881131 for details.