"Please wear a poppy," the lady said, And held one forth, but I shook my head. Then I stopped and watched as she offered them there, And her face was old and lined with care; But beneath the scars the years had made, There remained a smile that refused to fade.

A boy came whistling down the street, Bouncing along on care-free feet. His smile was full of joy and fun, "Lady," said he, "may I have one?" When she’s pinned it on he turned to say, "Why do we wear a poppy today?" The lady smiled in her wistful way And answered, "This is Remembrance Day, And the poppy there is the symbol for The gallant men who died in war. And because they did, you and I are free - That’s why we wear a poppy, you see.

"I had a boy about your size, With golden hair and big blue eyes. He loved to play and jump and shout, Free as a bird he would race about. As the years went by he learned and grew and became a man - as you will, too. "He was fine and strong, with a boyish smile, But he’d seemed with us such a little while. When war broke out and he went away. I still remember his face that day When he smiled at me and said, Goodbye, I’ll be back soon, Mom, so please don’t cry.

"But the war went on and he had to stay, And all I could do was wait and pray. His letters told of the awful fight,(I can see it still in my dreams at night),With the tanks and guns and cruel barbed wire, And the mines and bullets, the bombs and fire. "Till at last, at last, the war was won -And that’s why we wear a poppy son." The small boy turned as if to go, Then said, "Thanks, lady, I’m glad to know. That sure did sound like an awful fight, But your son - did he come back all right?"

A tear rolled down each faded check; She shook her head, but didn’t speak. I slunk away in a sort of shame, And if you were me you’d have done the same; For our thanks, in giving, if oft delayed, Thought our freedom was bought - and thousands paid!

And so when we see a poppy worn, Let us reflect on the burden borne, By those who gave their very all When asked to answer their country’s call That we at home in peace might live. Then wear a poppy! Remember - and give!
Lowestoft and District Branch, Royal British Legion are celebrating their 90th Anniversary with a **Remembrance Day Concert** at the Beaconsfield Club, 7 Surrey Street, Lowestoft On Friday 11 November at 7.30pm

Featuring

**Fine City Chorus**

**OVERBOARD**

**RAFFLE** Refreshments avail.
Tickets: £6 at the door or Lowestoft 537078, 539491, All welcome
Proceeds in aid of The Royal British Legion Registered Charity: No 219279

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal got off to a flying start in Needham Market this year.

The Mayor of Needham Market, Councillor Martin Spurling, accepted a “Ceremonial Poppy” to add a touch of formality to the launch, then delighted RBL members by joining the Royal British Legion.

Pictured as the mayor signs up, are Branch Membership Secretary Paul Todd and members of Wattisham Army Cadet detachment which recently affiliated with Needham Market Branch of RBL. On parade for the first time today was the Affiliation badge which the cadets can now proudly wear on their uniform.

Attending the launch under Sergeant Instructor Paul Mildren were Cadet Sergeant Tom Leach, Cadet Corporal Luke Harvey, and Cadets Laura Walker, Felicity Margetson and Kain Cresswell.

**LEISTON BAND CD**

Being in constant demand and understanding how difficult it is to find a musician or band to play the Last post or Hymns at remembrance services.

The Leiston Band under the leadership of Mr. John Alderton has produced a C/D for the occasion at a cost of £5.00. I have listed out the contents below and wondered if you would be so kind as to contact local branches via your newsletter. The C/D can be ordered online by sending John an e-mail at johnalderton@yahoo.co.uk or via the Bands website [www.leistonband.cu.uk](http://www.leistonband.cu.uk)

I hope this is of interest and look forward to comments.

Regards, R.Skinner, P.R. The Leiston Band

1. Last Post, 2Minutes Silence, Reveille
2. Supreme Sacrifice x6 Verses
3. Onward Christian Soldiers x5 Verses
4. Eternal Father Strong to Save x3 Verses
5. O God Our Help in Ages Past x5 Verses
6. Evening Hymn and Last Post
7. National Anthem x1 Verse
8. Slow March... Scipio
9. Slow March... Golden Spurs
10. British Legion March
11. Quick March... The Middy
COLIN GIRLING AND COMPANY—ESTATE AGENTS IN IPSWICH—WILL DONATE £50 TO POPPY APPEAL FROM THE SALE OF EVERY PROPERTY THEY INSTRUCT ON DURING THE MONTHS OF NOVEMBER, DECEMBER AND JANUARY
19A-21 Gr Colman Street Ipswich IP4 2AN
Tel:01473 252555
www.colingirling.co.uk

If you have instructed another agent on a sole agency basis, the terms of those instructions must be considered to avoid a possible liability to pay two commissions.

POPPY SHOP OPENS IN IPSWICH

The Mayor of Ipswich, Cllr John Le Grys opens the Ipswich Poppy Shop in Tower Ramparts Shopping Centre

The sight of a Pipe band and standard bearers arriving up an escalator was a wonder to behold!!

The shop is open from 10am until 5pm Monday-Saturday until 12th November on the top floor of the shopping centre which is located adjacent to the green bus stops and opposite Crown Pools Swimming Pool

A few more volunteers would be welcome for 8, and 10 November in the afternoon - please contact Liz Combes
e.m.combes@btopenworld.com>

POPPY MAN MAKES HIT AT SUFFOLK COUNTRY GAME SHOW

County Staff and Committee Members manned a stand at the Robin Hood Country Game Show at the Suffolk Showground and Poppy Man caused quite a stir

POPPIES ARE SPRINGING UP ALL OVER THE PLACE!!

Courtesy of my Paramedic Son!!

HAVE YOU SPOTTED THE SIGNS ON FOUR ROUNDABOUTS IN IPSWICH?
## COUNTY NOTICES & EVENTS - CONTINUED

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<td>Sunday</td>
<td>ANZAC day commemorative service. St Edmunds church Southwold</td>
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<td>June</td>
<td>3 or 4</td>
<td>Sunday/Monday</td>
<td>Queens Jubilee Bank holidays – possible integration of County Rally within Ipswich Civic Celebrations and beacon lighting ceremony. Further details to be issued later</td>
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<td>June</td>
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<td>Thursday / Friday</td>
<td>Suffolk Show – please note change of days due to extended Bank Holidays</td>
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<td>September</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Woodbridge Branch 90th birthday – Elmhurst Park Woodbridge</td>
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### PLEASE SHARE INFORMATION ABOUT EVENTS YOU KNOW OF WITH THE COUNTY BY INFORMING THE OFFICE AND KEEP THIS DOCUMENT UPDATED.

IF YOU WISH FOR ANY MORE TEARDROPS OR BROOCHES PLEASE LET ME KNOW AS I WILL HAVE TO SEND REMAINDER BACK AFTER REMEMBRANCETIDE

PROPERTY PRESENTATION BY RBL COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT
For all Branches and Clubs with Property in Corporate Trusteeship
TO BE HELD IN COUNTY OFFICE AT 7PM ON 7 DECEMBER 2011
ALL THE INFORMATION YOU WILL NEED ABOUT LEASES. HEALTH AND SAFETY VALUATIONS ETC PRESENTED BY DAVID ARNOLD, EAST REGIONAL TEAM LEADER AND PROPERTY MANAGER

Hosted by C group of the Royal British Legion Suffolk – at APEX Bury St Edmunds
**FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE FRIDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2011**
Royal Air Force Band, Honington
Tickets £10 from the Box Office 01284 758000. Proceeds to the 2011 Poppy Appeal
Doors open 18.00. Show starts 19.00

STOWMARKET BRANCH FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE –
**REGAL THEATRE**
STOWMARKET
**SATURDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 2011 -7.30PM**
A MESSAGE TO YOU FROM THE MEMBERSHIP DEPARTMENT IN LONDON

MEMBERSHIP CARD RENEWAL PROCESS 2011

We would like to apologise for delays in delivery of cash cards during the card renewal 2011; members on Direct Debit all received their cards prior to 1 October. Please find below an update on where we are and how we are addressing issues.

Resources
Membership Department experienced unexpected staff shortages prior to and in the middle of renewal, which resulted in temporary solutions being put in place both at the CDI office and in HQ, which obviously had an impact on the renewal process. Additionally, following a major water leak in the building the CDI office was temporarily closed due to repair works and this caused some delay in dealing with the workload.

Fulfilment and printing
A one year contract is in place with an outside supplier, which produces and despatches weekly and yearly renewal cards on our behalf. On 5 September the final print proof of the membership cards and carriers was agreed and sent to the company, which was slightly behind schedule. The delay was due to corrections in text on the carrier and partly due to reformatting of cards from stick on to peel off. In addition, there was an urgent need for review of Gift Aid certificate due to legal requirements. All other necessary information for the fulfilment and distribution of the cards had been sent to the contracting company prior to the deadline.

Delivery
The cash cards were expected to be despatched from 15 September. The mail carrier was UKMail and delivery was expected 24/48 hours after despatch as per the agreement. Should no one be at the address UKMail would continue trying to deliver the cards until someone signed for the package. Not all deliveries were made to the correct address nor was a card left in all cases if packages were delivered to neighbours/alternative addresses. Some packages arrived damaged which is being investigated.

From 26 September the department started receiving numerous calls and emails from the County Secretaries/Membership Administrators as well as Branches who complained about not receiving cards. We were until that moment not informed about any delays to the agreed timescales. The Membership Services Manager started chasing the company and on 30 September we were informed that cards were still being despatched. The despatch report showed that some entries still had no despatch dates recorded against them. Further despatch reports have now been received and the latest information shared with the County Secretaries and Membership Administrators.

Current situation
On 4 October the company advised that the final batches of cards were despatched by Friday, 30 September. Delivery should have taken 24 to 48 hours maximum. All Branches should now have received their cards or attempts are being made to have the cards delivered. Where possible and upon request, we are trying to re-route deliveries to County Offices but have not been successful in all cases.

The contract with the company for both the weekly and annual renewal cards is finishing this month. A tender process will take place for both processes. Discussions between Membership, the Procurement team and the contract management team have started on 6 October to negotiate the new contract. The day to day management of the relationship with the outside supplier is under review.

BRANCH ACCOUNTS

These are coming in slowly but please make sure you complete the membership numbers at the top of the form, check all the signatures are in place, check that THEY BALANCE!! And you include the last bank statement up to 30 September and the Authority to disclose form – All to me please by 31st December 2011
Suffolk Constabulary has introduced a new telephone number for people who want to talk to the police about non-urgent issues. Instead of ringing the current switchboard number of 01473 613500, people should dial **101**. The introduction of 101 in Suffolk is part of a nationwide initiative which will see all forces adopting the number by the end of the year. It is designed to offer one easy way to contact your local police force to report non-emergency crimes, disorder or anti-social behaviour or to speak to your local police officers.

Assistant Chief Constable Paul Marshall said: “Everyone knows to ring 999 in an emergency – but research shows that only half of the public know how to contact their local police if they want to talk to them about less urgent issues.

“The introduction of an easy-to-remember, three-digit number should help address this. “By the end of the year, people will be able to use 101 to contact their local police force’s non-emergency service, wherever they are in England and Wales.

“It is also hoped that the introduction of 101 will help divert more non-urgent calls away from the 999 system, freeing up call handlers to deal with genuine emergencies.”

The new number should be used to report issues which don’t require an emergency response. For example, people should ring 101 if: their vehicle has been stolen; their property has been damaged; they suspect drug use or dealing; they want to give the police information about crime in their area; or if they would like to speak to a local police officer.

101 will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. When calling 101, the system determines the caller’s location and connects them to the police force covering that area.

A recorded message announces which police force the caller is being connected to – and gives them a choice if they are on a boundary between two or more forces. Police call handlers in the local force contact centre will then answer the call and respond appropriately. There is also an option of speaking to an operator, if the caller wishes to contact another force.

Calls from landlines and mobile networks cost 15 pence per call, no matter what time of day or the duration of the call. People who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired can textphone 18001 101.

The new 101 service is not for emergencies. In an emergency, people should always ring 999 for immediate police assistance. An emergency is where: life is in danger, a serious offence is in progress, a suspect is at a scene, an alleged offender is identified at any location, there is an imminent likelihood of violence/damage to a person’s property or there is a serious road traffic collision.

Darker nights are here - don't advertise your home to thieves

With clocks going back at the weekend (Sunday 30 October), and darkness descending earlier in the day, residents are being encouraged to play their part by switching on to some simple crime prevention tactics.

Chief Inspector Kerry Cutler from Suffolk Constabulary’s Community Safety Department said: “Leaving your house in total darkness is a sure sign no-one’s at home and an invitation to burglars.

“Burglars look for quick win opportunities; they don’t want to run the risk of a confrontation so simply leaving a light on to give the impression someone is at home is often enough to deter them.

“Timer switches can also be fitted to operate radios and lights if you’re not back from work until after dark or if you’re away for a few days. “Leaving a light on costs literally pence in electricity - and that pales into insignificance compared to the hundreds of pounds in insurance excess you might have to pay should your home be broken in to.

“A high proportion of all break-ins are as a result of properties being left insecure so checking all windows and doors are locked before leaving the house is crucial.“Other home security essentials are to use your burglar alarm if you have one - it’s amazing how many households don’t bother - and also to never leave a spare key under the doormat or a flowerpot. Burglars will always look there first so it’s not much of a ‘hiding place’.”

Anyone wishing to find out more about crime prevention advice and home security should contact their local Crime Prevention Officer at Suffolk Police on 01473 613500.
HEROES QUIZ

If you come across a website for the above – this was an idea originally invented by Robin Hollington whereby Clubs/Pubs/etc could download quizzes to be done on a particular night, and in order to do so had to donate money to H4H and RBL.

Having run into difficulties with a dual event, and not receiving the sort of support he had in mind from H4H, all donations are now going to the Legion. Just wanted you to know this, lest you come across it and wanted to ensure it was legit.

The website is www.heroesquiz.org.uk.

(NB – we aren’t paying anything towards it).

THE OFFICIAL POPPY APPEAL SINGLE 2011

I’VE GOTTA GET A MESSAGE TO YOU
PERFORMED BY THE SOLDIERS with ROBIN GIBB

Release Date: 23rd October 2011

The Official Poppy Appeal Single for 2011 is the poignant ‘I’ve Gotta Get a Message to You’, performed by The Soldiers with Bee Gees legend Robin Gibb, it was announced today.

To be released on 23rd October 2011, The Soldiers’ royalties will go to The Royal British Legion’s annual fundraising drive which will be launched nationally on Oct. 27th. It is the first time serving soldiers have released the Official Single for the Poppy Appeal, which will focus this year on the Legion’s assistance in the recovery of injured Armed Forces personnel.

The track has been produced by the renowned Nick Patrick (Katherine Jenkins, Russell Watson) and Jeff Chegwin. Robin Gibb wrote the song with his brothers Barry and Maurice and it was originally recorded by the Bee Gees in 1968, becoming their second number one single on the UK singles chart.

Robin Gibb said:“Although not written all those years back about soldiers, it can represent the human emotions of servicemen – or in this case, a single soldier. It’s about being trapped in a corner far from home, brave but scared and thinking of loved ones. These men and women deserve our respect and we need to remind ourselves that they – including of course Ryan, Gary and Richie – are prepared to lay down their lives for our freedoms.”

Russell Thompson, Director of Fundraising for The Royal British Legion, said:
“I’ve Gotta Get a Message to You is part of the soundtrack to our lives, and it’s incredibly moving to hear it performed by serving soldiers thinking of those on operations in Afghanistan. We’re proud to be associated with The Soldiers and to have this song as the official tune of the Poppy Appeal in our 90th anniversary year.”

The Soldiers – Sergeant Major Gary Chilton, Staff Sergeant Richie Maddocks and Lance Corporal Ryan Idzi – were aware of Robin Gibb’s charitable work for the Armed Forces and big fans of The Bee Gees when they approached Robin and asked if he would be up for a duet with them – they were over the moon when he agreed.

For further information contact:
Michael Neidus at Demon Music Group, T: 0207 612 3330, M: 07931 905 335, E: michael.neidus@demonmusicgroup.co.uk
Rebecca Warren, PR Officer, The Royal British Legion T: 0203 207 2239, M: 07824 301 072, E: rwarren@britishlegion.org.uk

11th November 1919
The First Two Minute Silence in London:

The first stroke of eleven produced a magical effect.

The tram cars glided into stillness, motors ceased to cough and fume, and stopped dead, and the mighty-limbed dray horses hunched back upon their loads and stopped also, seeming to do it of their own volition.

Someone took off his hat, and with a nervous hesitancy the rest of the men bowed their heads also. Here and there an old soldier could be detected slipping unconsciously into the posture of ‘attention’.

An elderly woman, not far away, wiped her eyes, and the man beside her looked white and stern. Everyone stood very still ... The hush deepened. It had spread over the whole city and become so pronounced as to impress one with a sense of audibility.

It was a silence which was almost pain ... And the spirit of memory brooded over it all.

~~From the Manchester Guardian, 12th November 1919.~~

DO PLEASE LET ME HAVE ANY PHOTOS OR STORIES FROM BRANCH EVENTS. WE ARE GRADUALLY GETTING MORE BRANCHES INVOLVED BUT THERE ARE SOME OF YOU OUT THERE I NEVER HEAR FROM SO GET THOSE CAMERAS OUT!!
DO YOU WANT TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER VIA YOUR E-MAIL? – THEN PLEASE INFORM
sbromley@britishlegion.org.uk
01284 773471
Any information to be included for the next newsletter, please have into the Office by
9 December 2011

IF YOU WISH THIS NEWSLETTER IN LARGE TEXT OR CLEARER TEXT FORMAT, Please contact the
County Secretary

THE COUNTY POPPY LAUNCH TOOK PLACE AT WATTISHAM FLYING STATION WITH POPPY
PETALS BEING DROPPED FROM OVERHEAD PLANE.
THE POPPY RACE BALLOONS WERE ALSO RELEASED – PICTURES NEXT TIME AND
RESULTS HOPEFULLY!!

CONFERENCE LUNCH TICKETS
Conference Lunches will be available for £7
per ticket – knife/fork buffet, sweet and
coffee
Money to Mrs Pat Scott, ‘Howards Way’, 8
Lime Tree Close, Needham Market, Suffolk
IP6 8TE by December 24th at absolute latest.
NO TICKET NO LUNCH

LAVENHAM AND IPSWICH
BRANCHES
Have both opened Gardens of
Remembrance this year
Lavenham is by the War Memorial in the
Village and Ipswich is within Christchurch
Park, behind the Cenotaph at the Koreans
Veterans Tree

I finished the 90 miles for 90 years walk at the Poppy Run in
Rendlesham on 30th October. It was only three miles this time in
yet more beautiful Suffolk Countryside. I have really seen all
over the county in this adventure, from Coast to corn, forest to
heath, supermarkets to cemeteries and dirt tracks to dual
carrigeways. My heartfelt thanks to all the organisers of events
and those who came along too. In the end, it was our
volunteers and members who organised each leg, and made it
easy for me. The intention behind the walk was to show our
community that the Legion is everywhere and ready to help
those who need us. I have to date received over £1600 in
donations which will help to boost this years Poppy Appeal. It
seems fitting therefore that Suffolk has been able to stand
Shoulder to Shoulder with all who serve in this way. So many
people will be working hard for the appeal this year and I hope
you raise a lot of money and enjoy doing it as much as I have.
Adrienne