The County honours its star contributors

County Certificates of Appreciation were also awarded to Brian Mahoney (Membership Support Officer – East Midlands) and to Brian Papworth of Louth Branch. Waddington Branch received the Laceby Rose Bowl, for the greatest membership increase by a Branch with a Club.

County Standard Bearers’ Cup - Richard Kent (Washingborough)

County Deputy Standard Bearers’ Cup - Alan Canham (Pinchbeck)

County Certificate of Appreciation – Roger Green (County Committee)

County Certificate of Appreciation – John Sellars (Swineshead)

Sheppard Cup – Alford Branch

The Sharman Cup for services to the County Standard Bearers – Andy Warne (Louth)

County Deputy Standard Bearers’ Cup - William Redpath (Wrangle)

County Deputy Standard Bearers’ Cup - Alan Canham (Pinchbeck)

County Standard Bearers’ Cup - Richard Kent (Washingborough)

County Deputy Standard Bearers’ Cup - Alan Canham (Pinchbeck)

County Certificate of Appreciation – Brian Marsden (County Committee)

County Certificate of Appreciation – John Sellars (Swineshead)

County Certificate of Appreciation – Roger Green (County Committee)

County Certificate of Appreciation – Brian Papworth (Louth)

County Certificate of Appreciation – Brian Mahoney (Membership Support Officer – East Midlands)

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Approximately half of our Branches were represented at our Annual Conference this year. Thank you to everyone that made that extra effort to attend. It was a somewhat different format with a Poppy Forum held in the morning attracting a good number of PAOs. For a number of years I have spoken in favour of having regular meetings with our PAOs to ensure that they are made to feel part of the family and not left to manage on their own. With the arrival of our newly appointed County Fundraiser it appears that we are at last making progress and this may well become a regular feature of our Annual Conference.

The Conference itself was most successful and our guest speaker David Whimpenny delivered the corporate message in his own style. He also explained some of the thinking behind decisions that had been made by the Membership Council and encouraged members to look forward with confidence whilst acknowledging that there was still much to be achieved. During a spirited Question and Answer session he gave plain understandable answers and took some questions away to research the information required. He has since contacted me to confirm that he is still waiting for answers from various staff members. Stuart Allen the Membership Council member also gave answers to some questions.

It was encouraging to see that five members stood for election to the County Committee and congratulations to those who were successful. Next year there will be four vacancies to be contested and I hope that all members will consider whether they could contribute something to the running of the County. To clarify a point discussed at Conference I would stress that a Branch Chairman or Vice Chairman can serve on the County Committee and retain their position in the Branch. Only the County Chairman or Vice Chairman are not allowed to hold the same office at Branch level. Every Branch Chairman is encouraged to attend a County meeting and should you wish to do so then please just contact me to arrange it.

The National Conference will soon be upon us and I encourage all Branches to send a Delegate. All Branch Secretaries should have received the necessary information to enable an application to be completed. Please note the cut off date.

It is always a great pleasure at Conference to present the various awards to Branches and individuals I would ask that every Branch recognises those members deserving of acknowledgement for their efforts. The first step is the award of a Branch Certificate of Appreciation and then we move on to County Certificates. Also please make those recommendations in good time and present the award whilst the member can enjoy it. Too often we do not recognise the continued efforts made by our members.

I am most grateful to be given the opportunity to continue as the Chairman of Lincolnshire County for the next three years. There will be changes ahead but if we meet those challenges by working together then we need not fear the future. Looking forward to identify where we can make progress whilst retaining our traditional values will ensure that Lincolnshire remains strong and our members get the service and support they deserve. An informal chat with members often clarifies the sometime mysterious administrative directives from Head Office and if it will help I am willing to visit any Branch by invitation. Thank you all for your support during the past year and I wish you every success in 2015.

Kind regards

Tony Goodwin
**Horncastle End of World War Two Celebratory Event**

Horncastle and District Branch remembered 1914, the start of WW1, in similar ways to many Branches all over the country, by holding numerous events throughout the year. The events, by necessity, were of a sombre nature. The profile of the Royal British Legion was raised both locally and nationally, and Horncastle and District Branch are hoping to maintain the level of interest by holding a celebratory event to mark the 70th anniversary of the end of WW2. On 2 September 1945 the formal surrender ceremony took place on the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay, thereby bringing to an end all WW2 hostilities. The Branch intend to celebrate this event, by organising a fundraiser at The Stanhope Hall in Horncastle on Saturday, 5 September 2015 (the first Saturday after the signing). Already booked are Steve Walker's Big Swing Band, an 18 piece swing band, generally regarded as the best in the area. To maintain the 40’s celebratory theme, guests will be encouraged to wear 40’s clothing. Red, white and blue will be the dominant colours in the Hall, and the food will be simple but typically British - Bangers and Mash with Onion gravy (with a vegetarian option) has been suggested. As one member said, "Posh food wouldn't fit in with the reality of what they had in the 40's". Tickets will be priced at £25 and there has been great interest already in the local area. It is hoped that the other Branches will support the event and that there will be a parade of standards through the hall at the start.

For tickets or further information please contact Julian Millington, Honcastle PAO, on 07985 372871.

**COACH TRIP TO NATIONAL ARBORETUM**

Coningsby, Tattershall and District Branch is organising a coach trip to the National Arboretum at Alrewas, Staffordshire on Wednesday, 15 April 2015. The cost is £15 per head. The coach will depart Coningsby Car Park at 0830 hrs prompt, and it is planned to route via Cottesmore. If there is demand, it can stop and pick up/drop off passengers at the approach layby to Kendrew Barracks, Cottesmore. Persons departing from Coningsby are asked to be at Coningsby Car Park by 0815 on the day of travel. It costs just £3 to park all day at this car park. The coach should arrive back at Coningsby sometime around 1900 hrs. Anybody who is interested please contact either Ann Wilkes, Branch Secretary, on 01526 342459 or John Crockett, Branch Vice Chairman on 01526 343004 or via email john.crockett@homecall.co.uk.

**Fifty trees to mark fifty Old Leake servicemen**

Members of 2 Royal Anglian Regiment, The Kings School Combined Cadet Force, The Royal British Legion, The Woodland Trust, members of Wrangle Branch, and local company, Bakkavor Cucina Sano planted 50 trees on 16 November 2014 to mark the 100th anniversary of the 1st World War. The trees were donated by The Woodland Trust as part of their four year Centenary Woods Project. Each tree was planted to commemorate one of the 50 servicemen from the village of Old Leake who gave their lives in that conflict.

**Donington Memorial Sword**

This sword was carved from wood by Mick Johnson, a member of Donington & Quadring RBL Club. He then decorated it with poppies and dedicated it to the memory of the dead of two World Wars.
County Annual Conference, Horncastle, 17 January 2015

Turn-out at our annual Conference seems to have stabilised with 31 voting delegates taking part again this year. Our guests this year also included Cllr Sandra Campbell-Wardman (Mayor of Horncastle), and Cllr Doreen Stephenson (Leader of ELDC), and Mr David Whimpenny (Board of Trustee Member). Sadly, our County Padre, the Rev Canon John Thorold, was unable to attend and our County Patron, Mr Tony Worth, CVO was on duty as Lord Lieutenant elsewhere.

County President
The County President, Simon Erskine-Crum, reviewed his first year in office. It had been a steep learning curve for him and he thanked everyone, especially members of the County Committee and Conference Committee, who had helped him. It had been a momentous year, both of WWI commemorations and WWII anniversaries. He mentioned particularly the new memorial at RAF Strubby with the flypast by two Lancasters, the turf cutting for the Lincolnshire Bomber Command Memorial near Lincoln, and the memorial line of trees at Old Leake to the air crews. There had also been fundraising boxing, cricket and rugby events. But it had been mostly a year of consolidation after recent administrative changes. He was encouraged by recent performance in welfare but there was still a long way to go, especially on membership which gave him concern. He looked forward to 2015 and the seventieth anniversaries of VE and VJ Days. We needed to raise their profile but we must also be careful not to overload the public perception; we must build up gradually to the commemoration of the end of WWI in 2018. He thanked the Branches for all their efforts in 2014 and expressed his best wishes for the new year.

Finally he announced that, although Tony Worth would step down shortly as Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire he had nevertheless kindly agreed to continue as our County Patron for at least one more year.

County Chairman
Tony Goodwin, County Chairman, also agreed that the new welfare system seemed to be working, especially now that Lincolnshire has again been identified as the busiest ‘welfare’ county in the country. Membership continues to cause concern. Some Branches and several clubs were struggling; Sutton Bridge Club had closed. The move towards greater centralisation continues with ever-more reliance on the Membership Council. Cash Payers next year will have to make their own arrangements to pay their membership subscription fees, which could mean a large loss of members. This had been endorsed by the Membership Council, but they needed to show that they represented all members and understood better the needs of the membership. They would also have to consider in 2015 the new level of the membership fee. They agreed some years that they would explain how any new increase would be spent; this would need watching!

The new ‘secondary’ County Office opened in Lincoln in 2014; the Area Office is in Derby where a new ‘Drop-In’ Centre has been opened – sadly missing the opportunity for a more central location in the Region. The County Secretary was now a ‘Membership Support Officer’ – another Membership Council idea – a title which confuses both the membership and the public.

The County had many successes in 2014 – the County Rededication Service at Wrangle, the Festival of Remembrance at RAF Cranwell, and the many Branch commemorations of the centenary of the start of WWI. Also Skegness lost by only two votes to Belfast as the venue for the National Conference in 2018. 2015 would see the commemoration of VE Day (8-9 May), VJ Day (16 August at Horncastle), the County Rededication Service at Sleaford (10 May) and the Eastern Counties event. But there were bumpy times ahead and we needed to stand together, especially on membership. He thanked everyone, especially members of the County Committee and Conference Committee, who had helped him. It had been a momentous year, both of WWI commemorations and WWII anniversaries. He mentioned particularly the new memorial at RAF Strubby with the flypast by two Lancasters, the turf cutting for the Lincolnshire Bomber Command Memorial near Lincoln, and the memorial line of trees at Old Leake to the air crews. There had also been fundraising boxing, cricket and rugby events.

The result of a number of elections were announced at the County Annual Conference:

County Chairman – Mr Tony Goodwin BEM had been the only nomination and was therefore re-elected without opposition.

County Vice-Chairman Bridget Wilcox defeated John Copeland to be re-elected for a further 3 years. It was noted with disappointment that 12 Branches had not properly filled in their voting papers which thus had, regrettably, been rejected as ‘spoiled’.

County Committee – Sam Ezekiel (North Hykeham), Richard Hewitt (Laceby) and John Johnson (Alford) were each elected or re-elected for three years.

County Conference Committee – Jim Seymour, (Pinchbeck), Steve Ironmonger (Bourne) and Colin Jackman (Spalding) were each elected for one year.

During the confirmation of the County Vice Presidents, the Chairman noted that Bert Barratt could no longer devote so much time to the position and it was felt that there was therefore a need for a third Vice President. It was announced that Cllr Doreen Stephenson (Leader of ELDC), who has worked so closely with the Legion in recent years, had kindly accepted the position. The Chairman thanked Johnny Walker for all his efforts and for continuing as Vice President.

After serving in the position for thirty years, Derek Scott has retired as County Treasurer.
Guest Speaker
Our Guest Speaker was Mr David Whimpenny, a Trustee and Chairman of the Membership Council. He began by thanking everyone for their dedication and hard work in what appeared to be a record Poppy Appeal this year, already close to £45 million. The County Poppy Days had also been very successful, double previous results. He reminded us that everything we do depends on our fundraising.

The Legion was still at the forefront of Remembrance. Our image nationwide - in Whitehall and in the public eye – had never been stronger. Our public rating was at its highest ever, second only to cancer research – we must be doing something right. Our links with the military were strong – over 100 RSMs had attended and been impressed by a recent presentation on the Legion’s work. Our campaigning was going well – contributing to the recent change in the law that a widow could retain her pension on remarriage. A new £15 million visitors centre would open in 2016 at the National Memorial Arboretum and some £6 million had been earmarked, from fines on banks for mis-selling, for other Remembrance events and projects.

He admitted that there had been a failure properly to explain recent changes. Nobody liked it but they were almost complete and we were starting to see the benefits The new Contact Centre was open 7 days a week with 100,000 enquiries a year; the welfare service was improving. The new Pop-In centres had helped to boost collaboration with other service charities.

We still needed to modernise our image to appeal to a younger generation. Contact with the younger generation was better but we still needed new ideas – the formation of ‘Young Professionals’ branches?

Membership continues to fall, often as a result of the closure of a club. A new computerised membership form will simplify and speed up on-line joining. It will still be centred on the National Holding Branch but new members will be passed on more quickly to local Branches.

The Membership Council needs to tackle this problem but the Council representation itself is unbalanced and needs attention. There would be no change in representation by the Counties.

The next three years will be just as busy as the last three and, no doubt, just as professional. The Legion continues to change lives, always for the better. We should all be proud to be part of it.

Questions from the floor
A number of questions and observations were put to Mr Whimpenny from the floor:
- He was asked how many Branches are using LOMAS, and welfare training was criticised for being too haphazard. He replied that a major problem of training was the high number of ‘no shows’ by members invited to training courses. He added that the manuals were being revised with the aim of making more training available local.
- It was pointed out that not everyone has a computer with which to use LOMAS. He agreed that Branch accounts could continue to be written manually.
- There was criticism about the recent 200+ amendments to the Membership Handbook and about the new rule that no member should serve simultaneously on a Branch and County Committee.
- He was asked what the Board of Trustees plans were for the redraft of the Royal Charter since its heavy rejection at two successive National Conference and in particular whether the contentious change to Rule 14 would be retained or abandoned. Mr Whimpenny replied that there were no plans to reintroduce the redraft in the next twelve months and that any review would be in accordance with members’ wishes’.
- It was noted that several commercial companies are abusing their links with the Legion to raise funds. Mr Whimpenny stressed that all such funds should come to the Legion and that any cases of abuse must be reported to Haig House.
City of Lincoln Branch affiliate with 2 Coy, Lincolnshire ACF

An Army Cadet Training weekend was made extra special recently with a Parade to mark the affiliation of 1 Company, Lincolnshire Army Cadet Force to the City of Lincoln Branch. All nine detachments were represented at the Ceremony at Beckingham Camp, and each detachment received a certificate from Brian Marsden, the RBL's Youth Officer. Then he, Alex Carson (Branch Chairman) and Lt Col Ron Gatepain, the Chairman of the Lincolnshire Reserve Forces and Cadets Association, presented all 88 proud Cadets on parade with their Legion Affiliation badges.

Maj Jeremy Field, OC, 1 Coy, invited guests to the All Ranks Mess for lunch where the guests had an opportunity to chat with the young Cadets. Congratulations were in order too, for a few who had also received promotions and qualification awards during the parade.

“The affiliation affords the Cadets an invitation to attend RBL events and the possibility of carrying Standards on Legion Parades. Conversely, RBL members are invited to attend drill nights and some have already begun to pass on their own military experiences” stated Chairman Alex Carson. “It is important that affiliation with youth organisations should be meaningful and we have been discussing ways in which we can ensure that this happens in ways that benefit both organisations. Apart from involvement in fundraising, sports, Armed Forces Day events and community projects we are planning education events for 2015. A current project is taking place on the battles of Monte Casino and Anzio. A member of the City of Lincoln Branch actually fought at both locations and spent 14 months as a POW in Italy. He can bring the project alive by providing first hand recollections of his experiences”.

Both the branch and Cadets are determined that this affiliation will be mutually beneficial. “Lincoln’s cadets will learn what the RBL stands for and how it helps ex-service personnel, especially younger service men and women who have returned from conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq,” said Brian Marsden; who also commented on the confidence of the young Cadets and the rapport between Cadets and Instructing Staff.

Charity Cricket Match

East Lindsey District Council arranged a Charity Cricket Match in September 2014 at Louth between PCA Masters X1 and RAF X1 played in aid of the Royal British Legion. It was a splendid community occasion with a large number of young cricketers receiving coaching from the ex-international players in the morning session. This was followed by an invitation lunch during which an auction was held which generated considerable funds for the Legion. A T20 match was played in the afternoon providing some excellent entertainment and a demonstration of considerable skills by the international players. Despite a spirited performance by the RAF they could not quite manage to reach the total set for them. However the whole day was a demonstration of good sporting spirit and fine example to the young players and spectators alike.

Lincolnshire RBL County Committee members manned the Mobile display unit, helped with our goodies stall, provided information, ran a raffle and generally had a busy day working with our ELDC friends. A special mention goes to the team of Committee members’ wives who worked very hard providing lunch and tea facilities in the marquee. It really was an excellent day and all parties worked together in the best community spirit.

The result of this splendid day is seen in the photograph when Mrs Doreen Stephenson, Leader of East Lindsey District Council, presented The President and myself with a cheque for the sum of £1500 for the Royal British Legion Lincolnshire County.

Tony Goodwin (County Chairman), Mrs Doreen Stephenson, and Simon Erskine Crum (County President)
Laceby’s Night to Remember
On the evening of 19 December, Laceby & District Branch hosted a sellout show in their club featuring “Kevin’s Legionnaires”. They were entertained with songs from shows, films, old favourites from the 50s and 60s and a finale of Christmas carols and songs. A fish and chips supper was also included.

The attached photos show their choral athletes which feature the Branch Chairman, County Treasurer, Branch Secretary, Women’s Section Standard Bearer, welfare workers, committee members, and helpers from the Branch and Women’s Section. The evening raised almost £400 for the Poppy Appeal – including £214 from ticket sales, £66 in raffle proceeds, and a surprise donation of £110 from Mr Ian Wiseman.

The Royal British Legion versus (!) the RAF
The Legion does not often oppose the Armed Services, but, on Sunday, 11 January, we did just that when Lincoln Rugby Club hosted a charity rugby match – a Legion Charity 15 vs an RAF Charity 15. - at their ground at Nettleham. The match was sponsored by Russell Payne and Co.

A local businessman and youth coach at Lincoln Rugby Club, Michael Jorden, organised the event. Michael was supported by the RBL when he left the Royal Artillery in 2007 having sustained injuries during a promotional leadership course. After leaving the army he established JRH Water Management in 2013 which was awarded the Silver Plate at the 2014 Lincolnshire Show for the Best Agricultural Product. He also coaches the Lincoln Rugby Club youth players.

Michael wanted to support the Poppy Appeal by raising money from the match as a way of saying thank you. A team of Lincoln players from local clubs and businesses was assembled to represent the Legion 15 to play against an invitation RAF 15. As well as a raffle and a charity stall, 50 players took part, each donating £5 to play. There is no record of the actual score – but who cares? Everyone won!

Stephen Hart – The Royal British Legion Lincolnshire Case Officer commented ‘It’s great to see former servicemen like Michael who have benefited from the support of the Royal British Legion go on to make a success in their new careers and then give something back to the legion. Lincolnshire has a high proportion of serving and retired forces personnel, many of whom have needed the legion’s support both when they leave the service and at other points in their life. Without the generous support of so many in the county to the Poppy Appeal both as fundraisers and volunteer case workers we would be very limited in the support we can offer’.

Spilsby Awards Night
Spilsby & District Branch used their December meeting at The Red Lion to present a number of awards for long service to the Poppy Appeal. Mrs Gill Rymer received a badge for her 50 years of dedication to the Appeal – what an achievement! Next, 15 Year badges were given to Messrs Dennis Blackbourn, Dennis Blanchard, and Donald Odlin, and Kind Thoughts florists and Tongs Retail received Certificates of Appreciation. Details of the amount raised by the Poppy Appeal will be announced as soon as the final counting has been completed.

Mr Lenton then unveiled a box he has had commissioned to contain the Branch Standard when not in use. It is hoped to have it mounted in the Franklin Hall together with a plaque once decorations have been completed. Letters of thanks have been sent to Mr Ray Ford for the woodworking, Mr David Scott for the brass work and Timeless Interiors for the materials. All this work was done at their own expense and at no cost to the Branch. A big vote of thanks was given by all the members.

Gill Rymer receiving her 50 year badge and certificate from Branch President, Ron Worth
The Power of the Press
Spalding Branch have a happy story to tell of the power of the Press. Last November, the *Spalding Guardian* appealed on the Branch’s behalf to help members round off the sum raised during the Poppy Appeal from £29,147 to £30,000.

As a result, a reader who wishes to remain anonymous contacted the Branch PAO, Peter Lyon. He says: “It made my Christmas. Once in a lifetime a human being comes along and reacts like this just because they can. This person contacted us after seeing the *Guardian* article and asked ‘what do you need?’ to reach £30,000. At the time it was £853 and he wrote us a cheque. Since then other funds have come in to take the total to more than £30,703 – a Branch record. There has been so much goodness about and, as a result of everyone’s kindness, veterans and their families will get the support they need.”

He paid tribute to the support of the *Guardian* newspapers (Spalding Guardian and Lincolnshire Free Press) for the publicity they gave the the Legion during the 100th anniversary of the First World War.

Woodhall Spa’s new President
The Woodhall Spa & District Branch held their first meeting of the New Year and to start it off the new Branch President, David Mullenger, was handed his President’s Jewel by the Branch Chairman, Phil Avery.

David has been a long standing Legion Member and served the Branch well as Branch Treasurer and Committee Member. He has also undertaken overseeing the annual Remembrance Day Service and Parade.

David’s first task along with the Branch Chairman was to present to Branch Member, Ann Pickup, a Branch Certificate of Appreciation. Ann has worked on the Committee, been a Branch Caseworker and taken over as Branch Welfare Representative. Ann also liaises with the local Press on Branch affairs and wrote a History of the Branch. Along with her daughter, Ann assisted in the last years Branch "Coningsby Military Wives Choir" Concert which raised over £800 for the Branch Poppy Appeal.

Legion Christmas Trees
Both Stamford and Donington & Quadring created Legion Christmas trees this year. Stamford Branch again took part in the annual Christmas Tree Festival in St John’s Church, Stamford last December. The theme this year was the Legion’s national slogan ‘Live On’ and was accompanied by copies of the Soldier’s Prayer’ and the poem ‘In Flanders’ Fields’, in tribute to the commemoration of the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War.

Businesses and groups in Donington & Quadring were invited to erect a decorated Christmas tree, with a collection box, in their local Church of St Mary & the Holy Rood. Linda Hinton, Angie Dixon and Linda Moses of the Donington & Quadring RBL Club contributed this beautiful tree which collected £22.

Sutton Poppy Appeal Awards
Three long-serving Legion members have been honoured for their dedication. Gordon Godfrey, Edna Bryant and Ron Slough, all members of the Sutton & District Branch, have received certificates and clocks in recognition of serving as RBL members for more than 60 years each.

Gordon is currently the Branch Standard Bearer and Ron is the Branch President.
Branch Officer Training

Branch Chairmen, Secretaries, and Treasurers are local trustees of their Branches and are required under Charity Commission Guidelines to attend a relevant training course. Lincolnshire County has been allocated one Branch Management and one Treasurer Course to be held locally in 2015. The dates will be:

- Branch Management Course – 5/6 June (Friday/Saturday)
- Branch Treasurer Course – 10/11 June (Wed/Thursday)

There will also be a Recruiting Adviser Course on Friday, 12 June. The County Training Officer (CTO) is also planning Branch Management and Treasurer Courses for the weekend for those who cannot attend mid-week courses. Branch Officers who would prefer to attend those are asked to inform the CTO accordingly – Mr Sam Ezekiel, Tel: 01522 885716; Email: sezekiel@ntlworld.com.

Other Courses External to Lincolnshire County:

- 21 & 22 Feb 15: County Recruiting Officer, Haig House
- 21 & 22 Mar 15: Parade Marshals, TBC
- 11 & 12 Apr 15: County Conference Committee Course, London
- 19 & 20 May 15: Independent Examiners Course, Derby
- 13 Jun 15: Parade Marshals Update, TBC
- 04 Jul 15: Parade Marshals Update, TBC
- 17 to 19 Jul 15: CTO Course, London
- 25 to 27 Sep 15: Standard Bearer Judges Course, TBC

Application forms, available from the CTO or the Membership Support Officer, should be completed and sent to either one of them as soon as possible.

E-Book Sale

Flight of the Young Sparrow is a moving and enlightening book by Trudi Spatz about the experiences of her family fleeing Nazi oppression in Germany in 1938 and starting a new life, as Germans, in wartime England.

Trudi died last year and left a donation of £5000 to the Poppy Appeal via City of Lincoln Branch. She gave money to both the Royal British Legion and St Dunstans. Her son, Graham, is now going to donate 25% of any future revenue that he receives to be shared between these two charities. It is only the e-book that he gets any royalties from. The large print version is mainly sold to libraries and not to the general public.

The details can be found at: http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00RH8MVFU

Coach Trip to Bletchley

If you have not yet seen the film, Stibbington RBL are running a coach trip to Bletchley Park, home of the Codebreakers, on Saturday, 6 June. The cost is approximately £30 per adult, which includes an annual pass to return as many times as you please within a year, multimedia guide, optional 1 hour walking tour guide, access to all open facilities and on-site catering facilities.

Places will be limited, so book now with Branch Secretary, Sue Arnold on 01780 782200 or at sue@instepfootclinic.freeserve.co.uk.
The Membership Department wish to alert Branches to a bank processing error that occurred immediately before Christmas and has affected a significant number of branch and club bank accounts.

In summary, branch and club administration fees have inadvertently been double paid into many of our branch and club bank accounts. This situation has arisen because the Membership Department were incorrectly notified by their bank that their initial payment transaction of 19 December had been unsuccessful. As soon as this was brought to their attention on 23 December, they attempted to rectify the situation and authorised the payment to be made again. Unfortunately this has resulted in a double payment to many branch and club bank accounts. The bank is aware of their technical error and is working with the Legion’s Finance department to resolve the issue as soon as possible.

At this stage, Membership Department are simply alerting branches and clubs to the issue but will contact them as soon as they are able to confirm how and when the amounts will be recovered from those affected branch and club accounts.

In the meantime, they thank everyone for their patience and understanding as they work to resolve this issue and apologise unreservedly for any confusion or inconvenience caused.

Please direct any queries to membershipservices@britishlegion.org.uk

**RBL Funding for Branch Events**

Brian Mahoney, our Membership Support Officer, has received the latest edition of the paperwork for Branches to submit applications for RBL Funding of Legion Events, taking place between the 1 July 2015 and 30 June 2016. The forms include an outline of the procedure to be followed, the funding application form, expenses claim form, and the feedback/report form.

The completed application forms should be sent to the County office by the 27 February 2015 at the latest. If any Branch needs any advice in completing the application please feel free to contact him or Mrs Bridget Wilcox. In addition if any Branch requires a hard copy of these documents, please let him know.

Please note that this paperwork relates to applications for RBL central funding for Branch events and has replaced the Legion in the Community scheme (LIC) which used to be controlled by Bridget Wilcox. It is separate from funding from the HLF and other external organisations, as outlined on page 13 of the Autumn edition of *LegionLincs*. 

**Wills, Care & Mental Capacity**

Lawbrook Grace LLP are a legal services firm, based in Melton Mowbray, who are prepared to give a presentation of their services to Branches in Lincolnshire. The theme is ‘The five things you need to know about Wills, Care and Mental Capacity’ and covers why wills are not all the same, why the Power of Attorney has now become so important, the minefield of probate, and how to protect yourself from care costs, etc.

The presenters try to make the talks fun and interactive and to raise awareness of the issues without overly promoting themselves.

Please contact Mr Duncan Sims, Partner, on 01664 733732 or at duncansims@lawbrookgrace.co.uk

**National Annual Conference 2014**

The Minutes of Annual Conference 2014 are available on www.britishlegion.org.uk/media/3967145/AnnConf2014_Minutes.pdf. No hard copies will be sent to branches.

**Telephone Switchover**

Following the telephone switchover last autumn, we have now entered the final stage of the project which means:

As of 15 December 2014, any incoming calls to those county office numbers which were currently diverted with an accompanying message, now receive a message informing the caller that the number is non-operational and that the caller should ring 0808 802 8080. The call is then terminated. It is **not** diverted.

On 15 January 2015 all the old county numbers were closed.

Calls to the old Legionline number will continue to be diverted to the Contact Centre until at least March/April 2015 and at a point when we are satisfied that the old number is no longer being advertised via old marketing material.

We will look to discontinue any old materials advertising Legionline number. Those branches with online presence are required to amend information held on their websites.
## Provisional County Calendar of Events 2015

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>VENUE</th>
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<tr>
<td>14 February</td>
<td>Regional Standard Bearers Competition</td>
<td>Loughborough</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 March</td>
<td>County Management Board Meeting</td>
<td>Lincoln Office</td>
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<td>22 March</td>
<td>Standard Bearers School</td>
<td>Louth</td>
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<td>18 April</td>
<td>County Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Waddington Club</td>
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<td>25 April</td>
<td>Meeting of Annual Conference Delegates</td>
<td>Donington Club</td>
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<td>10 May</td>
<td>Annual County Service of Rededication</td>
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<td>16/17 May</td>
<td>Annual Conference</td>
<td>Southport</td>
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<td>14 June</td>
<td>Standard Bearers School</td>
<td>Crowland</td>
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<td>15 June</td>
<td>County Management Board Meeting</td>
<td>Lincoln Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 June</td>
<td>Armed Forces Day</td>
<td>Countrywide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 July</td>
<td>County Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Waddington Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 August</td>
<td>County Management Board Meeting</td>
<td>Lincoln Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19/20 September</td>
<td>County Chairman’s Seminar</td>
<td>Staverton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 September</td>
<td>Standard Bearers School – AGM</td>
<td>Louth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 September</td>
<td>Branch Chairmen/Secretaries’ Seminar</td>
<td>Donington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 September</td>
<td>County Standard Bearer Competition</td>
<td>Horncastle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 October</td>
<td>County Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Waddington Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 October</td>
<td>Poppy Appeal Launch</td>
<td>East Kirkby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 November</td>
<td>Festival of Remembrance</td>
<td>RAFC Cranwell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 November</td>
<td>Festival of Remembrance</td>
<td>Royal Albert Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 November</td>
<td>Remembrance Sunday</td>
<td>Countrywide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 November</td>
<td>Armistice Day</td>
<td>Countrywide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 December</td>
<td>County Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Waddington Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 January 2016</td>
<td>Annual Meeting of County Conference</td>
<td>QEGS Horncastle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NB:** This calendar of events has still to be approved by the County Committee and is also subject to change depending upon National events etc.

## We Will Remember Them

Mrs Sheila Dawdry, East Halton & District
Mr Theo Palmer, Woodhall Spa & District
Mr Ken Gowler, Woodhall Spa & District
Mr Robert Ingham, Kirton & District
Mr Jack Pearson, City of Lincoln
Mr Tom French, Sleaford & District
Mr Fred Harris, Barnack & District
Mrs P Crick, Woodhall Spa & District
Mr Peter Hills, Long Sutton

Mr G C Turner, Laceby & District
Mr Graham Wright, Horncastle
Mr George Wand, Donington & Quadring
Mr Alan Sage, Horncastle
Mr P A Milton, Holbeach
Mr L Blanchard, Laceby & District
Mr Roger Browne, Barnack & District
Mrs Mary Banister, Donington & Quadring
Mr G C Turner, Laceby & District
Mr A E Naylor, Horncastle

The next edition of LegionLincs will issue at the end of March. Please let me have all your plans and preparations by then for the anniversaries of Gallipoli and VE and VJ Days, and for Armed Forces Week.

Steve Bonde,
Editor LegionLincs