THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION
ESSEX COUNTY
NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER
OCTOBER
2014

COUNTY NOTICES & EVENTS

COUNTY WELFARE FUND
GROUP & BRANCH DONATIONS
1 JULY 2014 TO 30 JUNE 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Branch</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hornchurch Branch</td>
<td>£1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chelmsford Branch</td>
<td>£1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Woodham Ferrers Branch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clacton on Sea Branch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Takeley Branch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Great Dunmow Branch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wickford Branch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hockley Branch</td>
<td>£250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weelely &amp; Li Clacton Branch</td>
<td>£50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brentwood Branch</td>
<td>£250</td>
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</tbody>
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TOTAL RECEIVED FROM BRANCHES THIS FINANCIAL YEAR TO DATE - £5820

THE ROYAL CHARTER


This version incorporates the Charter Motions carried at Annual Conference 2014 and subsequently supported by the Board of Trustees at its meeting on 19th June 2014, including consequential changes to the Governing Regulations. The change to Article 3 (e) has not yet been ratified by the Privy Council so is not included; this latest version will only be available on the Legion web site.

BRANCH ACCOUNTS ARE NOW - OVERDUE!

Major J B Buckley-Saxon (Bram): admitted as a Life Member of the Royal British Legion

The National Chairman, Mr John Chrisford presenting Major Buckley-Saxon with his certificate and badge of Life Membership

Since joining the Legion, Bram has played a very full and active part in all Legion activities at Branch, Group and County level. He gives freely of his time, without ever seeking recompense and has been in the front line of his Branch throughout his service, having taken on the roles of Branch Secretary, Treasurer, Chairman, Vice-President, President and Group Delegate. He has been a member of the County Committee for ten years and continues to be so. In addition to his Legion activities he served on the Parish Council for many years and was until recently a member of the Police Watch Committee. He is also a member of the Board of Commissioners for the Scouts. Major Buckley-Saxon is one of those especially proactive Legion members who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in a variety of roles whilst shouldering, with great dedication, the majority of the work and responsibility. During his long association with the Legion he has worked unceasingly to project the aims of the Legion, its work and its public image
COUNTY STANDARD BEARERS COMPETITION

The County Standard Bearers Competition was held on Sunday, 5 October at the Writtle Cristian Centre.

The winners were:

RBL STANDARD BEARER
TONY MOTLY – BILLERICAY BRANCH

WOMENS SECTION STANDARD BEARER
IRIS LINE – HATFIELD HEATH BRANCH

RBL NOVICE CUP
RUTH LEWIS – NORTH WEALD

The photograph shows the nine contestants with their Judges, John Collins of Cambridge (extreme left) and Laura Ashton of Surrey (extreme right)

More next month if, hopefully, some photographs of the successful competitors are forthcoming!

ANNUAL RENEWAL

The annual renewal cycle is underway. Please make note of the following important dates:

17th July – 31st OCTOBER – No members can be transferred to alternative branches between these dates
2nd OCTOBER – collection of annual renewal membership fees for DD payers
1ST FEBRUARY 2015 – All unpaid for cards must be returned to CDI in Eastleigh for credit to the Branch.

MEMBERSHIP HANDBOOK

The updated Membership Handbook is now available for all Branches on a dedicated external web area. This new digital format ensures that all branches have access to an up to date version at all times. Visit the external web area at:

www.britishlegion.org.uk/membershiphand

Username: memhandbook
Password: TRBLmem£86

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL MEMBERSHIP FORMS CAN BE DOWNLOADED ON OUR COUNTY WEBSITE BY VISITING

http://counties.britishlegion.org.uk/counties/essex/branch-administration

MS1 FORMS DUE FROM ALL BRANCHES BY 31ST DECEMBER 2014

We’ve received a few queries about the MS1 forms – please note that these forms will not be distributed by post from Head Office. They can be downloaded by branches from the Legion website:

http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/membership/members-information/membership-documents

WELFARE CONTACTS

This is a reminder for Welfare referrals and queries for Branches:

Via the Contact Centre – 0808 802 8080
Via the shared Area inbox by email - eastanglia@britishlegion.org.uk

THE NEWSLETTER

Is edited by the County Treasurer – Bryan Emery.

He may be contacted on any matter concerning the newsletter including suggestions for improvement, layout, or what have you! You may send contributions for inclusion in the newsletter direct to the Email address shown below. It would be helpful if all contributions are sent using Ariel 9 point font.

bryan.emery@btinternet.com
THAXTED MOURNS THE LOSS OF A GALLANT OFFICER

The sad death of Major (Retd) David Helme, aged 93 years, occurred on Sunday 31st August 2014 at home in Thaxted. Born in Lancaster on 13th December 1920, David spent most of his childhood with his parents and brothers and sister in South Africa. He was sent back to England to be educated at Winchester College. He read for a degree in History and Political Science at Christ Church College Oxford before joining the Coldstream Guards as an Officer at the outbreak of the Second World War. After a short spell in England undergoing public duties with the newly formed 6th Battalion, he was sent out to North Africa with a draft of reinforcements for the depleted 3rd Battalion, The Coldstream Guards, deployed as part of the 8th Army.

David remained with this Battalion in North Africa throughout 1942 and 1943 seeing action as a Platoon Commander as part of the 8th Army at Knightsbridge Box, Tobruk, Gazala, Medinine on the Mareth Line, Wadi Akrit, Enfidaville through to Tunis where the Afrika Korps collapsed and surrendered. In September 1943, his Battalion was transferred to Italy and landed at Salerno. He was involved in some of the bitterest fighting throughout the Italian Campaign during 1943 and 1944, including the capture of Naples, the Volturno Crossing, Capua and Teano and the two battles of Mount Camino. It was at Mount Camino that David Helme was severely wounded in the head by shrapnel from a bursting mortar bomb. The explosion also killed the sergeant who was beside him and whose body fell on top of David, hiding him from view. Presumed killed and missing in action, David was fortunately found still alive some 12 hours later and was evacuated for treatment. Having recuperated from his wounds, David returned to his Battalion and remained with them in Italy until the end of the war. He was finally demobilized in 1946 and returned to civilian life in England.

After the war David joined Lloyds in London as a broker and moved to Essex to bring up his family at “Muscombs”, near Broxted. In 2006 “Muscombs” was purchased for the proposed expansion of Stansted Airport and David moved with his wife Joan to Thaxted. David was a member of the Royal British Legion for 66 years, having joined in 1948 after leaving the Army. He was President of the Thaxted Branch from 2010 until ill health forced him to stand down in 2013. He leaves behind three daughters and a stepson. A Memorial Service took place at Thaxted Parish Church on Tuesday 30th September.

LIGHTS OUT SERVICE

Mersea Island Royal British Legion led the Lights out service at the West Mersea War Memorial commencing at 2140hrs on 4 August to commemorate the start of WW1. Reverend Sam Norton introduced the service and there was a roll call of the fallen from WW1. Three posies of flowers were laid, a poem said and a song sung followed by a time of reflection. The service ended at 2203hrs with lights out; and dismissed with the Khomia Epitaph (there were about 130 present).

PETER GRETALEY
GREAT WAKERING BRANCH

It is with sadness that the Great Wakering and District Branch of the Royal British Legion announces the passing of their past Chairman Peter Gretaly on Sunday 28th September - sadly missed by all.
COMMEMORATION OF H.M.S. KITE

On 21st August a short service was held at the HMS Kite memorial in Braintree & Bocking Public Gardens to remember the crew of HMS Kite who were lost 70 years ago on Arctic convoy JW59.

HMS Kite was a Royal Navy Black Swan-class sloop which the people of Braintree adopted in 1942 as part of the Admiralty’s ‘Warship Week’ initiative when she was being built at Cammell Laird on the River Mersey. She entered service early in 1943 and was part of the force protecting Atlantic convoys from the U-boat threat. In August 1944 she was with a convoy bound for Murmansk and, at 06.30 on 21st, HMS Kite was torpedoed off Greenland and sank in 90 seconds. Just 14 of the 217 man crew were pulled from the icy waters and only nine survived to return to Britain.

Andrew MacGregor organized the commemoration to honour his uncle, a Chief Petty Officer on the ship, who was lost along with his shipmates when HMS Kite went down. The service was attended by members of the Royal British Legion, Trustees of the Public Gardens and a National Council Member of the Royal Naval Association who gave the Exhortation and laid a posy of poppies. The Revd Beth Bendrey, Rector of St Peter & St Paul at Black Notley, led the prayers and the Colchester Pipe Band played a lament followed by other music.

It was just a small gathering but it reaffirmed the Binyon words “At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them”.

LOCAL DEBDEN SONGWRITER HITS THE RIGHT NOTE

A member of Debden Branch Essex RBL, Lisa Peretti, has just had two songs that she has written accepted by the Military Wives Choir Foundation (made famous by Gareth Malone) to be part of the repertoire in their national song book. Both songs were composed to mark the Centenary of World War 1. The first song called “My Heart Goes With You” reflects the feeling of wives and girlfriends saying farewell to their loved ones. The second song is called “By the Farthest Sea” with a theme taken from Psalm 139.

Lisa, a professional singer/songwriter and musician, was born in Seattle USA and studied at Mountview Theatre Academy. She is currently the Director of Music for the 16-strong Carver Barracks Military Wives Choir at Carver Barracks, Wimbish, near Saffron Walden. The Choir has built up a large band of supporters in the local area where they regularly perform.

Lisa conducted the premier public performance of her song “My Heart Goes With You” accompanied by the Band of the Corps of Royal Engineers at a large Concert in Saffron Walden alongside Jools Holland. The Concert commemorated 75 years of Bomb Disposal in the British Army. Lisa Peretti will be entertaining Debden Branch RBL at their annual Branch Dinner at Carver Barracks in early November. The Military Wives Choir will be performing at the “C” Group RBL annual Carol Service which is being held at Saffron Walden Church this year.
WICKFORD RBL CLUB

MEMBER OF THE BAR STAFF RAISES THE MAGNIFICENT SUM OF £416 FOR THE POPPY APPEAL: SIMPLY BY KEEPING HER MOUTH FIRMLY SHUT!

One of the young Wickford Club Bar Staff, Loren Hannon age 22, has raised the magnificent sum of £416 for Poppy Appeal with a sponsored silence whilst working a shift at the bar. A notice indicated that members would have to put in their order and she would indicate at the till how much they were due to pay. This was over a period of four hours and try though members might to make her speak before making their donation, she stayed true to her 'written' word.

This was no mean feat for a girl who currently holds the world land speed record for talking!!!.

WELL DONE LOREN

TOWER OF LONDON

Both Karen Bowman, PAO for Billericay and Christine Higgins, PAO for Wickford, have completed a shift, albeit on separate days, in planting the ceramic poppies in the Moat at the Tower of London, to commemorate the sacrifice of British & Commonwealth troops in WW1. It was four hours of hard, but extremely satisfying work, assembling the spikes before hammering into the ground and then securing the poppy head.

Many tourists looked on with words of encouragement. Volunteers are still required to complete this task of filling the moat before Remembrance Sunday and can apply online at the Historic Royal Palaces website. Ceramic poppies are available for purchase at £25 and will be dispatched after Remembrance Sunday.

LANGDON HILLS

A WW1 Commemoration day was organised by the Deputy County Treasurer, Dudley Naslund, at his local church, St Mary's Langdon Hills, on Bank holiday Monday. £420 was donated to the Poppy Appeal.