



The Derbyshire Legion



The Magazine of the Royal British Legion in Derbyshire
Incorporating the Derbyshire LegionLetter
Registered Charity No. 219279 *Shoulder to shoulder with all who serve*

August/ September 2013
Vol. 4 Issue 1

The Mercian Regiment Receive New Colours



Members of the Long Eaton Branch including myself attended this historic event which took place on the 6th June 2013 at the Worcester Warriors Rugby Stadium just off the M5 near Worcester. All four battalions of the Mercian Regiment received new Colours. The first time since their formation on 1st September 2007. New Colours are normally presented every twenty-five years. Historic because it is not often all four battalions can parade altogether and because the 3rd (Staffordshire) Battalion, part of 7th Armoured Brigade will be disbanded under the Future Army 2020 plan, after their forthcoming tour in Afghanistan which starts in October 2013 comes to an end.

Alan Fairbrother our Branch Welfare Caseworker served in the Worcestershire & Sherwood Foresters Regiment now 2 Mercian, organised for us to attend through the Long Eaton Branch of the W&SF Association which he is a member of. The day started off dull in fact on the way down it did rain part of the way. It kept fine for the Presentation of the Queen's Colour and Regimental Colour to each Battalion by HRH the Prince of Wales who is Colonel-in-Chief of the Mercian Regiment. The music was provided by the Band of the Royal Logistic Corps and the Corps of Army Music.

Each soldier and officer on parade wore oak leaves behind their Mercian Eagle cap badge in their beret or hat because royalty was present. This tradition comes to the Mercians from the Cheshire Regiment (now 1st Bn the Mercian Regt.): At the Battle of Dettingen in 1743 the men of the 22nd of Foot as the Cheshires were then called, saved King George II from capture. Tradition has it that His Majesty plucked a twig from an oak tree and expressed his wish that this might be the regimental badge. Hence the acorn design worn by the Cheshires on their cap badge and the tradition of wearing the oak leaves in their head-dress in the presence of royalty.

After the Presentation when it was time for lunch the sun came out and it was quite hot. Soldiers, their families, Veterans and Cadets went on to the pitch or sat in the stands to eat their lunch and socialise. It was a wonderful occasion. Sad in a way as one of the last reminders of the antecedent regiments will now all be laid up - the old Colours.

The Mercian Regiment recruits in Cheshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire and the West Midlands so Civic dignitaries from those areas were there. Including from Derbyshire Amber Valley, Chesterfield, Derby, Derbyshire Dales, Erewash Borough, High Peak District and South Derbyshire.

Left-hand picture shows the old Colour Party with the old Colours of the 2nd (Worcester & Foresters) Bn

Right-hand picture shows the new Colour Party of the 2nd (Worcester & Foresters) Bn with their new Colours.

Text and pictures by John P. Irwin, Editor.



The top right hand picture is the new Queen's Colour of the 1st (Cheshire) Battalion. The 2nd, 3rd and 4th battalions Queen's Colours are the same but have II, III or IV in the centre to denote the battalion. Inset below: HRH Prince Charles inspecting the troops (Army Website)



Alan and Pat Fairbrother photographed on the Royal Saluting Base. Taken by John P. Irwin.



This picture shows the new Regimental Colours of the 1st Bn, the other battalions have II, III, or IV in the top left hand corner. The Buff background colour comes from the Cheshire's facing colour.

Chairman's Commentary

I trust that you have all enjoyed this spell of fine weather over the past week or so. We are now back into what I, and many others, call the British Summer. It is more comfortable for those that are working in offices without air conditioning – The County Office is a good example !!

I recently issued "Pathway for growth update: July 2013" to all Branches, via their secretaries, and ask that all members have sight of this document. It explains the progress with the implementation of P4G and some of the changes coming our way in the not too distant future. I can further report that the Derbyshire Case Officer is Jayne Hughes, with the Advice and Information Officer being Darren Maltby. These two will be the Derbyshire Welfare Team, based at the Area Office, but also being out and about throughout the County. The existing team of Kate Maunder, Sheena McWhirter and Lidia Pacznska will be leaving the RBL in the next few months. The Area Manager and I will keep you abreast of further changes as and when they are being implemented – suffice to say the way we administer "Welfare" in the future will be different and, importantly I believe, better.

On behalf of the County Committee I thank all Branches and members who contributed to the County Draw. It was hoped to draw the winning tickets at the County Show but unfortunately this had to be cancelled. Congratulations are extended to **Stella Greasley of Ripley** for winning the first prize of £500.00. With half the ticket sales being returned to Branch Funds, a small profit has been credited to the County General Fund, so it is a win - win situation.

Reminder - The County is now in the three month period following the end of the "Field" Financial Year – A nine month "year" for 2012/13. The rules for the submission of Accounts have not changed, ie audited R & P forms, etc should be submitted to the County Office by the end of September. Past excuses, using the Poppy Appeal as the reason for the late receipt, will not hold water this year – **Please do not let the County down.**

Derbyshire RBL County Chairman Bernard Page MBE

Derbyshire LegionLetter



WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Due to problems beyond my control the names of the Members that have passed away since the last Derbyshire LegionLetter will be included in the next edition.



Wirksworth Standard Bearers School

For Standard Bearers training sessions please contact Dilys Elliker on 01629 823380 or Email: dilys.elliker@bopenworld.com

Ilkeston Branch Standard Bearers School

Malcom Jarvis is running Standard Bearer training on the following dates:

Date: 20th August and 8th October 2013

Time and Day: All are on a Tuesday at 7.30 pm to 8.30pm

Venue:

United Reform Church, at the junction of Wharncliffe Road and Albert Street, Ilkeston, DE7 5GW

All Standard Bearers or anyone wishing to know what it is all about are welcome to come along.

Contact Malcolm Jarvis: **Home Number:** 0115 932 3457 **Mobile:** 07580 717481

Email: malcolm.jarvis2@ntlworld.com if you are interested.

200 Club Draw June

To be drawn in August
Will be published in
the next edition

200 Club Draw July

To be drawn in August
Will be published in
the next edition

Training for RBL Members

Please contact me if you are interested in attending any Training Courses or for further details.

Tel: 07870 853365

Email: yvonnerobinson1958@hotmail.co.uk

Yvonne Robinson Derbyshire CTO

The next Derbyshire Legion will be published on the 25th September 2013

Please send your contributions to me by the 15th September for inclusion. If it is received after this date I might not be able to get it in.

Editor John P. Irwin



Derbyshire RBL Women's Section Forthcoming Events

Purse Presentation

at The Masonic Rooms, 1A Campbell Street, Belper. 7.30 pm. **2nd September**. Buffet.

Annual County Conference

Wallis Barracks, Boythorpe Road, Chesterfield. **23rd November**.

Assemble at 11.30 am for coffee followed by lunch and then Conference

Joint RBL & RBL Women's Section Carol Service

Will be held at St. Mary's Church, Wirksworth on the **8th December**. Time to be confirmed.

All Branch Standard Bearers are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served after the service.

Angie Swift Derbyshire WS County Secretary. Email: sapjas@hotmail.com

Derbyshire LegionLetter - Fundraising News

Derbyshire Total so far: £637,941.09

National Total so far: £35,494,263.52

Hartington

In Hartington, members of the RBL Cavendish Club held a three mile bed push from Warslow back to Hartington, followed by a tombola and cake stall, and a 'garden in a tray' competition to raise £1531.50 for Battleback. They seem to have picked the best day in May to hold the event and judging from the pictures, they remembered the key ingredient for a great fundraising event – have fun!



Hathersage

Over in the High Peak, Hathersage welcomed back local musician Lizzie Ball for a concert organised by the Hathersage branch of The Royal British Legion, in aid of the Poppy Appeal. Lizzie is a vocalist and violinist who has worked with Jeff Beck and Nigel Kennedy, and performs regularly with her own band at Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club in Soho. The concert was a sell-out with over 400 tickets sold and around £4,000 raised.

Poppy Run

Once again the county will be hosting a Poppy Run on Sunday 27th October. Starting at 11am, this 5km Fun Run will start at Pride Park Stadium, go around Alvaston Park, along the river and finish back at the stadium. Last year the organisers surpass all expectation for a first event, by attracting over 90 participants and raising over £2,000. The emphasis is on FUN, so bring the children, dress up if you like and have fun raising money for the Poppy Appeal. Registration details can be found at www.poppy-run.com. It would be great to get Poppy Runs going in other parts of the county so if you are interested in organising one or know someone who is please contact me or go to the Poppy Run website. As the county's community fundraiser, I am here to assist with the organisation of any run.

Poppy Ball

Those lovely folk over at Chesterfield Football Club are holding a Poppy Ball on the 30th October at the Proact Stadium to raise money for the Poppy Appeal. Tickets are £35 which includes a three-course meal and entertainment from the 'D-Day Darlings'. There will also be an auction. For booking details please see the attached flyer.

Poppy Appeal Organisers

We still need Poppy Appeal Organisers for Rowsley, Darley Dale and Hope. If you know someone who would be willing to take on one of these voluntary roles, please contact me. (Contact details page 8)

Christine Selden Community Fundraiser

Armed Forces Day Fundraiser

Members of Swadlincote & District Branch, assisted by the staff and cadets of 1211 (Swadlincote) Squadron ATC, were out in force on Saturday, 22nd June for the Legion's annual Armed Forces Day Fundraiser. The Squadron's Corps of Drums and Continuity Drill Team carried out several displays on the Delph throughout the day whilst members of the Royal British Legion Riders Branch were on hand to show off their motorbikes to interested parties of all ages. Chair of South Derbyshire District Council, Councillor Mrs Ann Hood attended the event with her consort Mr Frank Hood meeting members of the Branch and 1211 Sqn and even carried out an inspection of the cadets assembled on the Delph.

This year's event, which raises money for the Poppy Appeal brought in just over £200. This is the second year that we've held an Armed Forces Day event in the town centre and we hope that we can build it up to become bigger and better year on year.



Top left: Branch Members collecting for the Poppy Appeal

Right: Frank Mellor of the RBL Riders Branch

Left:
Chair of South Derbyshire District Council, Councillor Mrs Ann Hood
inspects the cadets of 1211 Squadron ATC

Text and pictures supplied by Glyn Jackson, Branch Secretary

Ilkeston Branch Fundraising at the Ilkeston Carnival 8th June 2013



Top Left: Margaret & Trevor Topley selling raffle tickets for the Donated tricycle.

Bottom Left: L To R: Trevor Topley, Ken Prothro, Mr & Mrs Terry Whittaker, John Cam and Malcolm Jarvis.

Right: Brian and marion Brown on the donated tricycle raffle prize.

Text and Pictures supplied by Malcolm Jarvis

The 58th Ilkeston Branch Annual Dinner Held at the Ilkeston Rugby Club on Friday 14th June



Trevor and Margaret Topley



Erewash MP Jessica Lee, centre with on the left her brother and on the right Branch President John Cam



Right: Councillor Eileen Knight and guest left



Roy Cox, Karen McDermott and Trevor Topley

Belper Branch at the Belper Steam Fair

At long last The Annual Steam Fair was held on the correct weekend without any rain. Belper Branch attended along with the County Marquee. It was a succesful and enjoyable weekend with the opportunity to raise both funds and awareness.

With support of some fantastic cakes we managed to collect over £500.

We also spoke to many people with the aid of a Riders Trike. From this we sent a few people away with information on Membership, The Poppy Appeal and how to help us. After speaking to a few lapsed members it gave us an idea for a lunch time Muster Parade....More details to follow. A big thank you to all who helped over the weekend.



Text and pictures supplied by Nigel Winn

Alestree Branch Presentation to Two Students at Woodlands School

Awarded annually by the Alestree Branch Royal British Legion to two students giving assistance and support to others ie. "Service Not Self", the Royal British Legion Motto.

This year Eva Featherstone for her outstanding support in Eastern Europe supporting orphanages, raising money through her church for supplies and educating children. Certificate and Trophy presented by Mrs Mary Middleton MBE. Chairman Women's Section Allestree and Women's Section Derbyshire County President.



To Matthew Northedge for his family's support in raising money for teenage cancer by climbing the Three Peaks in Yorkshire in under 10 Hours. Certificate and Trophy presented by Allestree Branch Chairman Mr Peter Steer.

Text and pictures supplied by Mrs. Middleton MBE

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www.britishlegion-derbyshire.org.uk

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**Derbyshire County
RBL Riders Branch.****The "Pie & Pea Meet and Greet"
Meetings**

at the
Market Place Café,
Ripley,
Derbyshire,
DE5 3FJ

Have started again and will continue on
the first Wednesday of every month at
19.00 Hrs (7.00pm) to 21.00 hrs (9.00
pm) until further notice.

**Dean Fowler (Deano) Derbyshire
County Rep RBL Riders Branch**

mob: 07966 442387

Email: dean.fowler1@btinternet.com

Ripley & District Branch

Meet first Thursday of the Month at the
Sir Barnes Wallis pub, Maple Ave,
Ripley.

Time: 07.30 - 21.00 pm (19.30 to 21.00
hrs)

All are welcome.

Branch Chairman Dean Fowler



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