



KENT COUNTY NEWS

TRBL South East Area Office (Kent)
Royal British Legion Village
Aylesford, Kent ME20 7NL

Membership Support Officer

Mobile - 07554 553263

e-mail - twest@britishlegion.org.uk

Welfare & Fundraising

via Contact Centre - 0808 802 8080



Registered Charity 219279

County website: www.britishlegion.org.uk/counties/kent

January 2018

BRANCH SECRETARIES: PLEASE NOTE THAT THE ITEMS IN THIS MONTHLY CIRCULAR SHOULD FORM PART OF THE REPORT TO YOUR BRANCH COMMITTEE

COUNTY CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

In now moving into the year 2018 may I wish you and your families a very Happy New Year and wish that all your plans come true.

One hundred years ago our forefathers were still in the thick of WW1 and many prayed that it would soon be over, although many battles were yet to take place before this war ended on 11.11.18. Although the war ended the loss, hopelessness and support that the Servicemen and their families faced didn't, and although many groups gave some relief it wasn't until three years later in 1921 that those groups came together to form the British Legion, whose aim was to fight for the rights and assistance needed for those ex-Servicemen, together with comradeship. This year marks the 97th year we have been in existence. As a charity, we are still seeking the proper support from HM Government for our beneficiaries. Although much has been obtained, we along with other Service charities still need to be raising funds and giving support to the beneficiaries.

Much of the Legion's strength and support over the 97 years was in the backing of our Membership and Branch network, yet today would we be able to be a strong voice locally and obtain all that our forbears did for the ex-Service community. So, as I leave office, I am leaving you all with big questions that you in your branches need to ask yourselves. "Are you and your branch in your local area still as effective as your forbears? Are you still a force for the ex-Service community in your area? Do all your members fully support the Poppy Appeal? Do your members operate the Branch Community Support scheme? Do all your members support the Remembrance events held during the year including the Annual Remembrance Parade? Finally, if you can answer yes to most of these, you also need to look at how your branch is recruiting new members whether they be ex-Service or not. Are you retaining them with good structured meeting nights and social events? More importantly, do you actively seek out potential Branch Officers and prepare them for office?"

It's a big task for most of us to attempt and if anyone says they tried it and it didn't work think back 97 years. How did they get, not only the local branch, but the County and National Network operational.

May I thank you all for your support over the past years in County roles as your CTO, Vice Chairman and for the last three years as your Chairman. I have enjoyed my roles and look forward to assisting the County in the future (if you'll let me back). The last two years have been difficult without the support of my wife Pauline and I thank you for all the support and encouragement you gave me

during that time. I would single out my daughter Sammie who immediately stepped in as my consort and took over the role her mother had held in supporting me at events.

At the **County Conference on Saturday 20th January** at Headcorn Village Hall commencing at 1pm, in the presence of Mr Terry Whittles, the National Chairman, I will hand over the control of the County to Richard Graham currently my Vice Chairman. I hope you will give him and his County team the support that I have enjoyed from you and together you will keep Kent County to the fore within the Legion and locally

Richard Cast
County Chairman

DONATIONS TO COUNTY FUNDS

The following donations have been gratefully received:

£925.00 Downs RBL Club

ANNUAL COUNTY CONFERENCE

County Conference will take place at Headcorn Village Hall, Church Lane, Headcorn TN27 9NR starting at 1 pm on Saturday 20th January. Our guest speaker is National Chairman Terry Whittles. Only those Branch members in possession of delegate tickets will be entitled to act as Branch Delegates and there are 31 delegates representing 30 branches. No tickets will be issued on the day. Members and guests are more than welcome to attend as visitors.

Standard Bearers: It would be nice to see as many Standards on parade as possible. Please let your Standard Bearer know about Conference and encourage him or her to attend.

Raffle Prizes: Would all those members attending please consider donating a prize to the post Conference raffle. Bring any donations with you on the day. Thank you.

Steve Woolford
Conference Secretary

BRANCH MS1 RETURNS

Out of the branches required to submit their MS1 Branch Information Form by 31st December, unfortunately 10 failed to make the deadline, that's two better than at this time last year. Thank you to all those Secretaries that have worked hard to get this important return in on time. The 10 branches still outstanding are:

Benenden	Rochester & Strood	Sidcup & Footscray
Frittenden	Rolvenden	St Margarets at Cliffe
Minster & Monkton	Royal British Legion Village	
Pluckley & Little Chart	Sandgate	

Of those that have submitted their MS1, five Branches are now registered as non-compliant because they have either one member holding more than one office or they do not have the minimum of four officers and three committee members. This requirement was indicated on the MS1.

You should be aware that anyone carrying a Branch Standard who has not signed and submitted their MS1B Standard Bearer Disclaimer form to this office is not covered by Legion insurance.

WELFARE REFERRALS

This is a reminder that **all** those requesting welfare assistance need to be referred to the Legion's Contact Centre on **0808 802 8080** (calls are free from UK landlines and main mobile networks) or via e-mail at info@britishlegion.org.uk. Area and County Offices can no longer accept direct referrals and can only respond to requests from those and until the Contact Centre has been informed first.

Cases are passed to the Area Office who assign a Case Officer or Caseworker. Contact is made with the caller within two working days or earlier if the call is deemed a 'crisis'. Referrals can be made by the individual or by another on their behalf such as Branch members and Welfare Representatives.

Should a member be told that someone from the service community needs assistance the informant should be advised to report the matter to the Contact Centre. If this is not practical then members should do so themselves passing on as much information about the case as possible. Members are reminded that, being representatives of the Royal British Legion, they must remain courteous to members of the public at all times.

As an organisation we rely on our members and volunteers and a positive interaction with the general public is vital to our success. It is imperative that everyone is able to deal appropriately with enquiries and requests for assistance from individuals or groups, and all should be reminded of their responsibility in promoting the Legion and to be open and responsive to all enquiries made of them.

GREAT PILGRIMAGE 90 (GP90)

When you read the detail regarding GP90 you will see that the wreath that will be provided to represent your community should be accompanied by writing produced by young people. This provides such a brilliant way forward with all existing affiliations – and might even help with new ones too.

For example, at my own branch we are going to launch a competition within the two local primary schools for year 5 and 6 children to come up with prose or poetry which reflects what GP90 is all about, in a way which is fitting to accompany the branch wreath. The prize will be the honour of having that work lay at the Menin Gate for everyone to see. This gives the opportunity for branch members to talk to the children and inspire in them the wish to succeed at something so very meaningful.

I'm sure you can all think of further ways to adapt this, with cadets, cubs and brownies, schools and existing youth members etc. And when you've thought up your brilliant ideas, don't forget to share them with me either by email --susanfoster61@btinternet.com - or on our Facebook page - Kent RBL Youth.

Susan Foster
Kent County Youth Officer

Kind regards and a very happy and prosperous New Year to you all

Tony West

Membership Support Officer
Email: twest@britishlegion.org.uk



LEST WE FORGET

Notification has been received that the following members have passed on:

Mr Michael Mathias	Dymchurch
Mrs Kathleen Mansfield	Elham Valley
Mr Kenneth Owen	Goudhurst
Mr Robert Goodwin	Hawkhurst
Mr Thomas Redman	Isle of Sheppey
Mr John Hall	Marden
Mr Ernest Harris	Orpington
Mr Reginald Mitchell	"
Mr William Ranken	Royal British Legion Village
Mrs Jeannie 'Betty' Stratford	Swanley, Crockenhill & Hextable



Our deepest sympathies go to their families and friends



KENT COUNTY DIARY OF EVENTS

JANUARY

Sat 20th County Conference - Headcorn Village Hall (1 pm)

FEBRUARY

Sat 3rd Branch Management Seminar - Capel Morris Centre (10 am)

Sat 24th Branch Management Seminar - Capel Morris Centre (10 am)

Sun 25th Regional Standard Bearer Competition (tbc)

MARCH

Sat 10th Branch Management Seminar - Capel Morris Centre (10 am)

Sat 24th Branch Management Seminar - Capel Morris Centre (10 am)

APRIL

Sun 1st - 2nd Medway Steam & Transport Rally - Chatham Historic Dockyard *

Sat 14th Branch Management Seminar - Capel Morris Centre (10 am)

Sat 28th Branch Management Seminar - Capel Morris Centre (10 am)

MAY

Sat 19th - 20th Annual Conference - Belfast

JUNE

Sun ? County Parade -

Sat 30th Armed Forces Day - Great Lines, Gillingham *

JULY

Sat 13th - 15th Battles for Victory - Ellington Park, Ramsgate *

Tue 24th-28th War & Peace Revival - The Hop Farm, Beltring *

AUGUST

Mon 6th - 10th GP90 Tour - Ypres Salient and The Somme

Wed 8th GP90 Tour - March to Menin Gate, Ypres

Sat 18th-19th Headcorn Combined Ops Military Vehicle & Air Show *

Sat 25th - 27th Military Odyssey - County Showground, Detling *

Thu 30th Pedal to Paris - Greenwich to Dover stage

SEPTEMBER

Sat 15th - 16th Salute to the '40s - Chatham Historic Dockyard *

Sun 23rd Centenary Drumhead Service - County Cricket Ground, Canterbury (3 pm)

OCTOBER

Sun ? County Standard Bearer Competition - Ditton

Wed ? Poppy Launch - County Hall, Maidstone

Sat ? County Poppy Lunch - Brompton Barracks

NOVEMBER

Fri	2nd	Thanet Festival of Remembrance - Winter Gardens, Margate
Sat	10th	Festival of Remembrance - Royal Albert Hall
Sun	11th	Remembrance Sunday & Armistice Day

DECEMBER

Sat	?	Carol Service - Capel Morris Centre (2.30 pm)
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JANUARY 2019

Sat	19th	County Conference - Headcorn Village Hall (1 pm)
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* **County Recruiting Trailer**

Updated: 3rd January 2018