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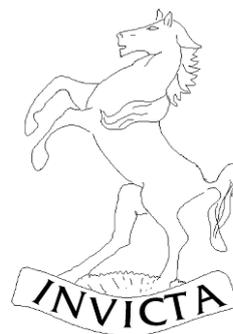
# KENT COUNTY NEWS

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

**Membership Support Officer**

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**March 2018**

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

## **THANK YOU AND GOODBYE**

After 17 years working for the Legion at Head Office and in Kent time has finally caught up with me and I am hanging up my (metaphorical) hat and retiring towards the end of this month.

There have been many ups and downs during my eight years as County Secretary/MSO but thankfully the ups far outweigh the downs. This is due to those I have worked with, both past and present, be they members of staff in the South East Area and at Head Office, County and Branch Committees and, ultimately, you the members. Thanks to all for doing your bit for our Legion.

I am not disappearing completely as I shall still be active in my own branch, the Invicta Branch, who for some reason have made me the Membership Officer. As if I know anything about membership !!

Now you will have to get to know and work with my successor, Ms Nikki Ward. She has been a South East Area Case Officer, working mainly in Kent and Surrey, and many of you know her from the presentations she gave to County Conference this year and last year. Be kind to her, she has a lot to learn.

My last day here in the office is Friday 23rd March and Nikki doesn't take over until mid April. Therefore the office, the phones and e-mails will not be manned so please refrain from contacting County Office until Nikki sends out a message saying "I'm here". This also means that there will probably be no April issue of County News.

So from 23rd March, thank you and goodbye.

*Tony West*  
Membership Support Officer

## **COUNTY CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

Just when we thought Spring was coming along nicely here is the snow to confound us all. Take care if you are travelling or out in the elements.

One of the most important things to achieve in Branches is to ensure your Branch Officers and Committee members have a greater understanding of their roles and the Legion today. It is therefore disappointing to know that the first two Branch Officer Refresher Seminars had to be cancelled due to low uptake. These events have been well publicised so no excuse not to have at least one date

available in your diaries. Our CTO, a volunteer like you, works hard to set these things up and there is a cost element too which County picks up so I am requesting all of you to sign up for the coming dates if you are newly elected at your AGM or just need to brush up on Legion knowledge. I will be watching this situation carefully.

Thanks to all the Branch members and Standard Bearers who turned out on a cold morning to commemorate Operation Fuller at both Ramsgate and Dover, our presence to pay respect to those brave men who tried to thwart the Channel dash and gave their lives. Well done!

I had the pleasure to spend time recently with the Chairman of a Rural Branch who have had great success in getting new members to join the Legion, some 40 in the last year! Was there a phenomenal new way to lure them in? Did they hijack a passing coach load of passengers? No, the Branch has been openly talking to the local community at every opportunity; when walking the dog, going to the Pub or local shop. Anyone they bump into to they mention what the Branch is up to. Their social activities, their help in the community etc., and in this way have built up a significant number of supporters who are not necessarily members of the Branch (yet) but understand and appreciate all they do. From these has come a steady influx of new members over time. So not rocket science, just simple human contact in a softly, softly way that has won hearts and minds. It is stunning to hope that if more Branches followed this example our Membership would be swelling in the County and Branches could plan a long-term future. I'm looking forward to hearing of other Branch success stories from you all, we need to share such positive things.

Kent was sponsor to the Regional Standard Bearer Competition held at Cobham in Surrey on the 18th February. This involved the best Standard Bearers from Berkshire, Greater London, Kent, Sussex and Surrey from the RBL and one Women's Section SB from Berkshire plus a Youth entry from Berkshire as well. Our Ceremonials team with Ann Austen ran the competitor events, County Parade Marshal Geoff Lees gave the Parade Commands for each individual being marked by the two National Judges. Deputy Parade Marshal Dave Harris, assisted by Norman Williams, ensured each competitor was entered into the hall properly and readied for their tasks. Ray Mann, Susan Foster and her Mum were the Scrutineers who collated the marks from the Judges and Ann Hill ran the raffle table with some nice prizes to raise some funds.

It was quite an eye opening experience for me, most enjoyable and I can assure you every competitor performed extremely well and Berkshire won the competition by a mere 1/2 mark over the runner up from Sussex. Our Standard Bearer was Paul Austen making his debut in the competition and gave an excellent performance but came 5th. The marking is very stiff indeed and rightly so and just in all competitive events how we are on the day can make a difference. The nicest thing was presenting the trophies to winner and runner up and congratulating all competitors but the best thing was the smile on the face of the young lady from Berkshire for the Youth event - next time hopefully we will enter a Youth Standard Bearer too.

A huge Well Done to our Kent people for their hard work in making the event such a success on our watch and a thank you to all involved from the Judges, spectators and to the Ladies who catered for us so well at the Hall.

*Richard Graham*  
County Chairman

### **DONATIONS TO COUNTY FUNDS**

The following donations have been gratefully received:

£650	Mr J A C Tye, County Handbooks
£20	In memory of Mr Stephen Wright

## **BRANCH DISBURSEMENTS**

Branches should now have received payment of the Branch Admin fees collected from members. These should have been paid direct to Branch accounts about 14th/15th February.

## **ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND ONLINE ANNUAL CONFERENCE DELEGATE FORM**

Currently only Ashford, Birchington, Hamstreet, New Romney and Orpington Branches appear on the delegates database for the Annual Conference in Belfast in May. Branches who applied on line have not yet been entered onto the database (it is a manually process). Please can any other branches who have applied for delegate credentials advise the MSO.

If your Branch is sending a delegate(s) to Conference please remember that the deadline for applications to reach the Annual Conference Administrator is by 5pm on Friday 13th April.

In addition to the paper application branches can also submit Delegate Credentials applications on line. The form can be found on the Membership Administration Portal home page under Applications.

For more information or support please get in contact with the Annual Conference Administrator: [annualconference@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:annualconference@britishlegion.org.uk)

## **MEMBERSHIP DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE ON MAP**

Please note that Membership documents are no longer available on the RBL website under Membership Documents. This is to reduce the number of places where these documents are stored and to make it easier to have one place for the latest version.

The documents can now be found on the MAP homepage under the Documents section.

## **MEMBERSHIP ADMINISTRATION PORTAL (MAP)**

As you may be aware more information is being stored on the Membership Administration Portal on Office 365. Branches should be using this site for reference as well as viewing membership lists. All Branches have login ID's set up for their Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Secretary and are encouraged to make use of them:

The login follows a generic style of: [branchname.role@rbl.community](mailto:branchname.role@rbl.community)

e.g. [invicta.chairman@rbl.community](mailto:invicta.chairman@rbl.community)

Please contact the MSO if the login has not been used previously or a password re-set is required due to a change of user.

These log in ID's are also an email address so contact details for your branch can be advertised without disclosing personal email addresses. Please note that due to the new data protection laws (GDPR) coming this May we have had to tighten how Membership data is accessed and distributed. To be compliant we will be disabling email forwarding to personal accounts.

## **JEWELS OF OFFICE**

The wearing of "Jewels" (i.e. badges of office) by many officers attending Legion parades and functions causes confusion in the public eye, so that some people mistakenly think that a "Jewel" is standard dress for all Legion members. The consensus rule is that:

- National Officers (President, Chairman or Vice-Chairman (if in attendance) will wear their "Jewels" at all Legion National County/District or Branch occasions.
- Only County/District Officers will wear their "Jewels" when attending a County/District organized event, parade or service.

- At a Branch function, only the organizing Branch Officers will wear their “Jewels” as will the County/District Officers if invited to attend in their Official capacity.
- Legion Officers attending non-Legion events in their capacity as a Legion Officer may wear their “Jewels”. If invited to a non-Legion event in any other capacity “Jewels” of Office WILL NOT be worn.

### **STANDARD BEARER TRAINING/GP90 ASSESSMENTS**

You will all be aware that the County runs regular Standard Bearer training sessions throughout the year where we are happy to assist Standard Bearers of any level with the drills required of them. This year, with GP90 on the horizon, our task has been made more onerous as we need to ensure that all Standard Bearers who are hoping to attend GP90 are fit for purpose and fully trained, as well as their uniform meeting RBL requirements.

Training days this year are planned for 18th March, 29th April, 3rd June and 15th July which will be last session before GP90. At the moment training will be held at the Capel Morris Centre in the RBL Village, but this could change so keep an eye on County Newsletter for confirmation.

It has to be made very clear that if your Branch is sending a Standard Bearer, it is absolutely essential they attend at least one, and preferably all, of these sessions so that we can assess their skills and train them accordingly. We also need to see them in uniform to ensure it is up to standard. They can change into casual clothing for the training itself.

IF THEY DO NOT ATTEND, THEY WILL NOT BE GOING.

This is cast in stone and is a National Directive.

In the meantime, they can do a lot worse than to read through the Ceremonial Handbook which is at <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/membership/already-a-member/membership-documents/>. Not all of it, just the sections that cover the drills and uniform requirements and perhaps get some practice in. I am well aware that Branch Standard Bearers may well be good at most drills, but I am also sure that many of them will never have practiced a couple of the drills which I am pretty certain will be required on the Parade at Ypres. These are:-

1. The Slope from the Carry, on the March, and
2. The Carry from the Slope, on the March.

The only other issue is that they have completed a Form MS1B either at, or since, your last Branch Annual General Meeting. This form is an insurance requirement which states that they are fit for purpose. If in doubt, submit another one.

The last thing is that Branches do not need to seek permission to take their Standard overseas on this occasion. Your Registration for GP90 is sufficient.

Thank you very much. Hope to see your Standard Bearer at the forthcoming training sessions.

*Geoff Lees*

County Parade Marshal

[geofflees@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:geofflees@yahoo.co.uk) / 07766 111607

### **GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION (GDPR)**

From 25th May the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) will come into effect and will supersede national laws such as the UK's Data Protection Act (DPA). The aim of this regulation is to unify data protection and ease the flow of personal data across the EU's member states. The new law is also established to fill the gaps in the existing law at a time where personal information is stored in more digital and online formats.

Although the GDPR is new, the majority of its core principles are the same as those in the current EU Directive. The UK's DPA is based on these core principles. Therefore the more closely we are

complying with the existing DPA the more straightforward the implementation of the new GDPR will be for us as an organisation.

However, the GDPR places more emphasis on governance and accountability and we will need to do some things differently. Further information on how this will affect branches and clubs will be included in County News when known. However, a few of the key points that could affect you are:

### **Consent**

The GDPR requires consent to be freely given, specific, informed and unambiguous. It also demands clear affirmative action from the individual providing their data (the data subject) to signify agreement to the processing of their personal data. This means that any document which asks for consent to be provided should be written in simple terms with information about how data will be used. Silence or inactivity will not constitute clear consent and affirmative action to the processing of personal data.

### **Data Processors to be Equally Liable**

Organisations that process personal data on our behalf (Data Processors) will have legal obligations and responsibilities meaning that they can be held liable for data breaches. This will supersede the current law which holds the Data Controller (us) solely responsible if a breach occurs.

### **Right to be Forgotten**

The GDPR will allow individuals a *qualified* right to request that their data be erased, provided certain grounds apply (for example, the data is no longer necessary in relation to the purposes for which it was collected). Where relevant, businesses will have an obligation to erase the relevant personal data it holds concerning that individual without undue delay.

### **Damages**

Individuals will have a right to claim compensation for damages due to a breach of the GDPR from both the Data Controller and the Data Processor.

### **Next Steps**

Over the next few months the Information Commissioners Office, who will remain the UK's data protection authority, will be focused on listening to the concerns of organisations and individuals in order to establish what specialist guidance is needed to implement the new regulations.

We are currently amending our existing policies to reflect the changes, and we will update you once these changes to policies and procedures have been made.

We have been given 2 years to get ready for the new GDPR and feel confident that as an organisation we are in a good position to be ready in time.

If you have any questions about how the GDPR may affect the work you do, please e-mail the Data Protection Officer at [dataprotection@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:dataprotection@britishlegion.org.uk).

### **OFFICE 365 PASSWORD EXPIRY RULE**

As some of you will be aware, this year GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) (<http://www.itpro.co.uk/it-legislation/27814/what-is-gdpr-everything-you-need-to-know-8>) comes into effect. To prepare ourselves for compliance to these new or reformed data protection rules there will be some necessary changes to the Office 365 system.

At the beginning of January Tom Shepherd, the Membership IT & Systems Support Officer, turned on the Password Expiry period rule. This means that every 90 days those using the Legion's Office 365 will need to change their password. The expiry period will be set to 90 days and users will get an email notification a number of days beforehand as a reminder. This will bring us in line with the Legion IT policy and the upcoming GDPR changes.

## **COUNTY WEBSITE**

The County website can be found at <http://counties.britishlegion.org.uk/counties/kent> and includes useful information about the Legion, County and Branches. If you wish to publicise a Branch event or tell the world what you are up to or anything that is Legion related then send the information to webmaster Sammie Cast at [kentrblwebmaster@btinternet.com](mailto:kentrblwebmaster@btinternet.com). Please send it as you would like it to appear on the site so that Sammie doesn't have to tinker with it. She should be able to just copy and paste. Read it through a couple of times to make sure it's readable to you and, more importantly, to the readers who may know nothing about what it is you are saying.

## **ASHFORD BRANCH**

We regret the passing of Mr John Turton. John had been a member of the Ashford Branch since leaving the Royal Air Force in 1947 (70 years). In his time at the Branch he had held the offices of Treasurer, Secretary and Chairman. In the 1990's he was President and also the Poppy Appeal Organiser and he remained Vice Chairman. He held a Gold Badge and in 1998 was made a Life Member of the Legion. He and his wife Jean would have been celebrating their 66<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary this year and always held the Legion in high esteem.

John's funeral is confirmed as Tuesday March 20<sup>th</sup> at Charing Crematorium commencing at 1240 hrs. His family have asked for the Ashford Branch Standard only but would welcome any member who would like to attend.

## **CONCERT ON BEHALF OF TRBL**

The Oriana Choir will be holding a concert on Saturday 17th November in Tunbridge Wells in aid of the Royal British Legion. They are only in the very early stages of planning and there will be more information closer to the date. Any queries concerning the concert should be directed to the Secretary, Mrs Davina Norman at [davina.norman@hotmail.com](mailto:davina.norman@hotmail.com).

## **Lawson House Extra Care Housing Scheme, Supporting Veterans in Later Life**

Rapport Housing & Care, a not for profit housing association and care provider, is delighted to share details of its brand new extra care housing scheme in Larkfield (between Maidstone and West Malling) scheduled for completion in May 2018. The scheme will comprise 74 one and two-bedroom apartments with an excellent range of communal facilities including a restaurant with sun room and terrace, an activity room and landscaped gardens. The apartments will be specifically for over 55s, available on an affordable rent basis through Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council (TMBC).



Working with TMBC, Kent County Council, Stoll Veterans Nominations Scheme, SSAFA and The Not Forgotten Association, we are delighted to be able to offer twenty of the apartments exclusively for veterans, enabling our brave servicemen and women to live independently within their own apartment with access to on site care, support and all-important companionship. The apartments will provide not only a safe place to live and be cared for, but a community for those who have felt vulnerable or isolated since leaving the Armed Forces.

Backed by the Lord-Lieutenant of Kent, the Viscount De L'Isle MBE, the High Sheriff of Kent, George Jessel Esq DL and Simon Weston CBE, the inclusion of homes exclusively for veterans has been possible due to the significant financial contributions of sponsors, including The Lawson Trust, after which the development is named.

The Armed Forces Covenant that has been established between, "The people of the United Kingdom and Her Majesty's Government and all those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces of the Crown and their families." It states: -

"The first duty of Government is the defence of the realm. Our Armed Forces fulfil that responsibility on behalf of the Government, sacrificing some civilian freedoms, facing danger and, sometimes, suffering serious injury or death as a result of their duty. Families also play a vital role in supporting the operational effectiveness of our Armed Forces. In return, the whole nation has a moral obligation to the members of the Naval service, the Army and the Royal Air Force, together with their families. They deserve our respect and support, and fair treatment."

Rapport Housing & Care has housed and cared for thousands of older people and since starting its journey as a member of the Abbeyfield movement in 1967, companionship has always been at the root of our core values. At Lawson House, there will be a great deal of emphasis on companionship and providing that all-important supportive ear for those living with biographical pain, tangibly recognising the covenant that, 'the whole nation has a moral obligation'.

**Applications for the scheme are currently being accepted. To find out more or obtain an application form, please contact [media@rapporthc.co.uk](mailto:media@rapporthc.co.uk) or call 01634 729144.**

Regards to you all

*Tony West*

Membership Support Officer

Email: [twest@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:twest@britishlegion.org.uk)



## LEST WE FORGET

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

Mr John Turton	Ashford - Gold Badge & Life Member
Mr Herbert Harrison	"
Mr Matthew Mawson	Cowden, Hartfield & District
Mr David Skinner	Downs
Mr Richard Streeter	"
Mr Robert Hinde	Gravesham & Ebbsfleet
Mr Ronald Livett	Greenhithe & Swanscombe
Mr David Burgess	Hawkhurst - former Secretary
Mr Ronald Jones	Hythe & Saltwood
Mr Derek Foreman	Isle of Sheppey
Mr Harry Sellen	"
Mrs Jessie Sherwood	Lamberhurst & Bayham
Mr Thomas Copple	Lenham & Harrietsham
Mr Kenneth Ince	Paddock Wood
Mr Herbert Speed	Rolvenden
Mrs Florence Turnbull	Sidcup & Footscray



*Our deepest sympathies go to their families and friends*



## KENT COUNTY DIARY OF EVENTS

### MARCH

Sat	10th	Branch Management Seminar - Capel Morris Centre (10 am)
Sun	18th	Standard Bearer Training - 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 *
Fri	20th - 22nd	Branch Treasurer Course - Capel Morris Centre
Sat	28th	Branch Management Seminar - Capel Morris Centre (10 am)
Sun	29th	Standard Bearer Training - Capel Morris Centre (10 am)

### MAY

Sat	5th	Branch Management Seminar - Capel Morris Centre (10 am)
Sun	13th	Poppy Walk - Whitstable
Sat	19th - 20th	Annual Conference - Belfast

### JUNE

Sun	3rd	Standard Bearer Training - Capel Morris Centre (10 am)
Sat	9th - 10th	County Conference Committee Course - Capel Morris Centre
Thu	14th	Meet The Team Day - Capel Morris Centre
Sat	23rd	Dover Armed Forces Day
Sat	30th	Armed Forces Day - Great Lines, Gillingham *

### JULY

Fri	6th - 8th	Kent County Show - County Showground, Detling *
Sat	7th	Recruiting Advisor Course - Capel Morris Centre
Sat	13th - 15th	Battles for Victory - Ellington Park, Ramsgate *
Sat	14th	Hythe Armed Forces Day Parade - High Street (10.15)
Sun	15th	Standard Bearer Training - Capel Morris Centre (10 am)
Sun	22nd	Step Short Parade - Folkestone
Tue	24th-28th	War & Peace Revival - The Hop Farm, Beltring *

### AUGUST

Sun	5th - 9th	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

Fri	14th - 16th	Branch Treasurer Course - Capel Morris Centre
Sat	15th - 16th	Salute to the '40s - Chatham Historic Dockyard *
Sun	23rd	Centenary Drumhead Service - County Cricket Ground, Canterbury (3 pm)

### OCTOBER

Sun	7th	County Standard Bearer Competition - Ditton (tbc)
Wed	?	Poppy Launch - County Hall, Maidstone
Sat	?	County Poppy Lunch - Brompton Barracks
Sat	27th	Recruiting Advisor Course - Capel Morris Centre

### NOVEMBER

Fri	2nd	Thanet Festival of Remembrance - Winter Gardens, Margate
Fri	9th	Dover Festival of Remembrance - Pencester Gardens
Sat	10th	Festival of Remembrance - Royal Albert Hall
Sun	11th	Remembrance Sunday & Armistice Day
Sat	17th	Oriana Singers Concert on behalf of TRBL - Tunbridge Wells

### DECEMBER

Sat	15th	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: 2nd March 2018



# The Royal British Legion

## Indoor Boot Fair

Raising funds for the Poppy Appeal  
and the RBL Birchington Branch

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Church House  
Kent Gardens, Birchington

9 am - 12 noon

Entry by donation

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Everybody welcome

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Light refreshments available

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RBL Raffle, Bric-a-brac

Various other stalls

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THE ROYAL BRITISH  
LEGION



**THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION  
INVITES YOU TO A 40'S NIGHT  
to celebrate the anniversary of V.E. Day**



**SATURDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2018 at  
THE ROYAL HOTEL, SHEERNESS**

**DOORS OPEN AT 19.00**

**Dance to 40's music**

**Grand raffle prizes and buffet**

**Why not come dressed 40's style?**

**Admission £8.00 on the door**