



# KENT COUNTY NEWS

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

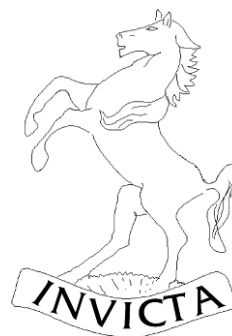
**Membership Support Officer**

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**Welfare & Fundraising**

via Contact Centre - 0808 802 8080



Registered Charity 219279

County website: [www.britishlegion.org.uk/counties/kent](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/counties/kent)

**April 2018**

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

**I'M HERE !!**

This is to let you all know that I am now sitting in the 'hot' seat at County Office. I have had a reasonable handover from Tony, but I have an awful lot to learn so please do not expect too much, too soon. I am here to support and guide you as a County and if I do not know the answer to your question, I will endeavour to find out. Please come and say 'hello' to me if you are in the area or call/email me to introduce yourself. Although I work full time hours, albeit longer days, Tuesday is my non-working day and therefore, the office/phone is not manned

*Nikki Ward*  
Membership Support Officer

**COUNTY CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

April is upon us and it marks a period of change, Tony West our long serving MSO has taken retirement from his post and I am sure we all wish him well in taking a more relaxed approach to life after such sterling service to us all in Kent. He remains a member of the Legion in his own branch and somehow I feel we will not forget him nor he us! So it is time to welcome his replacement Nikki Ward who comes to the role of MSO from an already demanding job with our SE Welfare team and over the last many weeks since her appointment has been working alongside Tony to make the changeover as seamless as possible for us all. Congratulations and welcome Nikki!

This is the time of year when many of us will be getting involved with Parades and Activities to commemorate and give our Thank You to the past generations who sacrificed so much for us. In this centenary year this is especially important and nowhere more so than here in Kent where for both WW1 and WW2 we were literally the front line. One such important event is the Zeebrugge Commemoration Centenary ceremony organised by Dover Town Council, as it has every year since the raid on the Mole and Lock Gates of that port by the Royal Navy and the Royal Marines. It takes place on the 23rd April ( St Georges Day) the day of the raid and this year I am pleased to advise that Terry Whittles our National Chairman will be one of the guests along with our National Standard! Already the local branch have been busy fixing large Poppies to the lamp posts on the route of the parade and we are hoping ( at time of writing) that the RBL Commemorative Events team will be able to have some special Zeebrugge pins in time for the big day. Our County Standard will be there and I do hope that as many Branch Standards from across the County as possible will muster for the event which is in two parts with a Service of Remembrance and Wreath laying at St James's Cemetry where the Memorial and graves of many of the fallen are, followed by the Parade in the Town and ceremony outside the Town Hall where the Zeebrugge Bell will be sounded and the Exhortation given. The Collingwood Band of the Royal Marines will be

there with detachments from warships in the harbour from the Royal Navy, Belgian Navy and the German Navy. Please contact our Parade Marshal Geoff Lees for further details.

In the afternoon, the Royal Marines will be marking their historic connections with Deal at a formal parade through the town with the Collingwood Band. So why not mark these two events on the one day and show our support for the Armed Forces community in these two historic Garrison and Naval towns?

Thank you all for your continuing good work within your Branches.

*Richard Graham*  
County Chairman

### **DONATIONS TO COUNTY FUNDS**

The following donations have been gratefully received:

£641.50 in memory of Peter Allerton

£100 in memory of David Burgess

£30 in memory of Vincent Reed

£105 in memory of Donald Cannings

£402.91 from Saltwood Church

£300 Mr G Redman

### **MEET THE TEAM DAY, CAPEL MORRIS, KENT**

Please hold the date, Thursday June 14<sup>th</sup> – more to follow in May's edition of County News

### **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)

### **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.

## **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORMS**

*Please ensure this information is passed to the Branch Membership Secretary*

This is a reminder that Form MS4/RMFAPP002/0515 is the only version of the form that can be used and is available to order from the Poppy Appeal, not County Office. Please submit your orders to [PoppyMembership@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:PoppyMembership@britishlegion.org.uk) or by phoning 01622 795801 or 01622 717172. Please note that MS4s must be sent to the address in Northampton as shown on the form, not County Office.

## **CANTERBURY BRANCH**

Some three years ago a member of the Branch had the idea that the Branch hold a Poppy Ball in 2018 to commemorate the ending of the First World War. It was said at the time that it was a long way off. Eric Hearn whose idea it was to have the Ball was asked just over a year ago, "Are we going to have this Ball?" So that started the ball rolling (excuse the pun) and with a small committee, the idea on what format the Ball would take was formulated. The Spitfire Ground (Kent County Cricket Ground) was chosen as the venue and Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2018 was chosen.

The committee decided that the format would be a 3-course dinner and dancing to Hullabaloo. Some very big thanks must go to Canterbury Auction Galleries who sponsored a table of ten and Hullabaloo, taking a very big financial burden off the committee. Big thanks go to a number of national as well as local companies and individuals who donated Draw Prizes, total 24 in all, ranging from the use of a Jaguar F Type sports car for a weekend to 32" Flat Screen TV.

On the evening a total of 171 people attended the Ball, including the Lord Mayor Cllr Rosemary Doyle, Lady Mayoress Jenny Yonge, Sheriff of Canterbury Cllr Colin Spooner, Cllr Pat Todd and Canterbury City Council Chief Executive Colin Carmichael and their guests. The feedback we have received so far has been one enjoyment by everyone who attended.

All the monies raised at the event would be going to the Annual Poppy Appeal. On the night £1,217 was raised through the sale of Draw Tickets and the new one-off Canterbury Pin Badge, with an eventual total in excess of £3,500. This total may rise as four Barclays Bank staff, through their Match Funding, volunteered to give up their Saturday evening to help with Cloakroom and the sale of draw tickets, along with one of the committees' friends selling the Canterbury Pin Badge.



## **CHINESE LABOUR CORPS COMMEMORATION**

During the First World War, almost 100,000 Chinese labourers were recruited by the British Army to provide logistical help. A vast majority passed through Folkestone on their way to mainland Europe. On Wednesday 14th March a small group of locals in Folkestone held a commemoration service to honour the contributions of the Chinese Labour Corps. Six men were buried in Shorncliffe Military Cemetery though it is likely that their descendants do not know of the existence of the graves.

The Legion was invited to attend and Cheriton & Morehall Chairman Trevor Mays, accompanied by Standard Bearers Howard Maiden (Cheriton & Morehall) and Bill Milner (Hythe & Saltwood), laid a wreath on behalf of the Legion.



### **Dover White Cliffs**

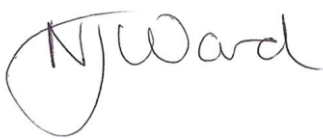
Dover White Cliffs was honoured to be invited by Steven Saunderson to attend the bi-annual inspection at the Duke of York's Royal Military School to present Alex Foreman, Principal with their Affiliation Certificate. In attendance were Brian Walton, Christine Walton and Ian Lillford. We enjoyed a tour of the museum and chapel and had the opportunity to see the dining room which was amazing.



### **Battle of Britain 78th Anniversary - Capel le Ferne - 2018**

The Royal Airforce Association have advised of the Annual Service and Parade at the Battle of Britain Memorial, Capel le Ferne, Folkestone, Kent, on Sunday 1st July 2018 commencing 13.30. All Standard Bearers have been notified.

Regards to you all



Membership Support Officer  
Email: [nward@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:nward@britishlegion.org.uk)



## LEST WE FORGET

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

Mrs Audrey Potter	Benenden
Mrs Irene Whyte	Birchington
Rev Margaret Fishlock	Downs
Mr Edwin Ramsden	Dymchurch & District
Mr Patrick Goodsell	Elham Valley
Mr Colin Burchett	Hawkhurst
Mr Robert Loft	"
Mr Derek Andrews	Hythe & Saltwood
Mrs Hetty Harkup	Isle of Sheppey
Mr Keith Robinson	Margate
Mr Kevin Sampson	Minster & Monkton
Mr Donald Taylor	"
Mr John 'Jack' Kendall	Rochester & Strood
Mrs Patricia Law	Royal Tonbridge Wells
Mr Ronald Stevens	South Darenth & District
Mr Michael Marsh	Staple
Mrs Jean Gray	Whitstable



*Our deepest sympathies go to their families and friends*



## KENT COUNTY DIARY OF EVENTS

### APRIL

Sun	1st - 2nd	Medway Steam & Transport Rally - Chatham Historic Dockyard *
Fri	20th - 22nd	Branch Treasurer Course - Capel Morris Centre
Mon	23rd	Zeebrugge Commemoration Centenary Ceremony - Dover
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

Sun	1 <sup>st</sup>	Battle of Britain 78 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Capel-Le-Ferne (13.30)
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: 23rd March 2018