



Summer 2012

## Message from the President

Hello - and as I write we are still waiting for the summer to arrive. It has been very frustrating so far as we have built a BBQ at the York Hotel and still haven't used it! Hopefully we will get a chance on 11<sup>th</sup> Aug when we hold our second members meeting at 2pm.

I was disappointed at the turn-out for the first members meeting of the year on 31<sup>st</sup> March as we had some very good and forthright debate and an excellent guest contributor. We are often criticized for "Not doing anything" so please support us if you can – we can only grow the branch with solid commitment from the members.

I was very pleased with the efforts made over the Armed Forces Weekend that was organised by MADUSA and RAFA. The church service on the Saturday was very moving and the parade on the Sunday was well attended although the weather was against us. I have to thank Jimmy Adamson (now a new member) for providing the picture opposite and those on the next page. It beggars belief that the local press who failed to send out a reporter or photographer, didn't know the parade was on despite it being advertised in their publication the week before.

The next big thing on the agenda is Remembrance Day – it's on the 11<sup>th</sup> November this year on the Sunday – very poignant and I'm sure we will have a great turnout for that – get polishing the medals now!

All the Best

**Mike Dennison**



Guest of Honour on Armed Forces Day?

## Armed Forces Day Parade beats the Rain



Morecambe celebrated Armed Forces Day organised by MADUSA on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July with a parade along a windy promenade. As you can see in the photo, standards were sloped for the march from the clock tower to the old Dome area for a Drumhead Service. We were honoured by the presence of the Mayor and her consort (ex-Kings Own) who battled against the wind to march with us.

*(More pictures over the page)*

## Second Members Meeting Announced

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> August at 2pm

at the York Hotel

Meeting followed by BBQ - £4 a head

Cask Ales £2 a pint for members

*"Its your chance to have your say"*

### Contact Us

**Mike Dennison – President – 01524425353**

**Maree Brown – Vice Chair – 01524824845**

**Les Croombs – Membership & Welfare - 07766790538**

**Jeff Turner – Poppy Appeal - 01524414938**

Can you spare some time during Oct/Nov – contact Jeff Turner if you would like to help the Poppy Appeal as either a Poppy seller or money counter – or both!!!!

## Armed Forces Day Parade in Pictures



## RBL Cyprus



On a recent trip to Cyprus, the Branch Vice-Chairman and Secretary, Maree & Malcolm Brown, came across the RBL Memorial outside the Dhekelia Sovereign Base War Cemetery. The Memorial was commissioned by the RBL Larnaca Branch and constructed by the Royal Engineers two years ago.

## ANZAC Day

The Annual ANZAC Day Commemorative Service was held in the War Grave Section of Torrisholme Cemetery on 28<sup>th</sup> April and was well attended by representatives of the local Ex-Service Associations. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Australian & New Zealand High Commissions and the Royal British Legion at the gravestone of Flt Sgt Jack Wilson of the RNZAF and tributes from his family in New Zealand were read during the Service which, for the first time, was lead by Fr. Tom Davis of St Barnabas Church.







## DIARY DATES

The following events have been/are being planned. Please make a note of them in your diary, so you can come along to support the Branch Committee and if you pass on the word to your friends, they can join in too.

5<sup>th</sup> August 2012. Heysham Classic Car & Bike Show. Heysham Village Field

11<sup>th</sup> August 2012. Open Forum/Members Meeting at the York Hotel from 2-00pm. followed by a barbecue.

1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2012. Morecambe Seaside Festival including the Red Arrows and the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight.

10<sup>th</sup> November 2012. Morecambe Band Festival of Remembrance at the Platform.

11<sup>th</sup> November 2012. Annual Remembrance Sunday Parade & Commemorative Service.

## Membership & Welfare

The Morecambe & Heysham Branch of the RBL is fortunate in being one of the few Branches continuing to recruit new members, but we are always looking to increase the numbers, so if you know of anyone considering joining, please ask them to contact our Membership Secretary Les Croombs at the number on the front of this Newsletter. You can also assist in spreading the word by passing your copy of the Newsletter on to friends and colleagues after you've read it. You could also ask for it to be displayed in your local Doctor's Surgery or Library.

Les Croombs is also kept busy as our Welfare Officer and should you, or anyone you know who is Ex-Service, need the Legion's Poppy Support, please contact Les. The Legion can help in many different ways from providing rest & respite breaks at Byng House to Business loans and help with training for career changes/progression.

## Festival of Remembrance

The Annual Festival of Remembrance will be held at the Royal Albert Hall, London on the evening of 10<sup>th</sup> November 2012. Should any Member (and their spouse/partner/family member) wish to go to this year's performance, please contact the Branch Secretary on 01524 824845 as soon as possible. Normally, the Branch will receive up to 4 tickets and these will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, but with a preference given to those who have not previously attended the Festival.

A nominal charge of £10.00 per person will be payable by the successful applicants.

## Poppy Appeal

Our Poppy Appeal Organiser, Jeff Turner, is gearing up for the start of this year's Poppy Appeal with the order for the Poppies and Wreaths being prepared. Once these have arrived, they will be put into the Poppy Boxes, collecting tins will be prepared and then these sorted for distribution to the various collection points around the district. Please contact Jeff (01524414938) if you can assist with distribution, manning of the static collection points in the Arndale Centre, Morrisons and Sainsburys and also for counting the proceeds, even if you can only spare an hour or two.