

# ***County News***

## ***The Newsletter of Worcestershire County Royal British Legion.***

### ***Summer 2012 Edition***

#### **Rededication and Falklands Remembrance Service**



The evensong at Worcester Cathedral on May 13<sup>th</sup> was attended by members, volunteers and supporters of The Royal British Legion and many of those that served during the Falklands Campaign, 30 years ago.

They were joined by nearly 40 standards, many from Legion branches and other regimental associations from across the county. This made an impressive sight at the cathedral entrance as civic dignitaries, County representatives from The Royal British Legion and Women's Section entered the Cathedral.

A wreath was laid on the altar by Ian Hooper of Lickey End Branch, in memory of those who gave their lives during the conflict. Ian, who served in the Royal Navy during the campaign, said " it was a moving tribute to the Falklands Campaign, and was a very emotional and humbling experience to lay the wreath today, on behalf of The Royal British Legion"

The County Chaplain Reverend Neil Bennett led the prayers and the County Chairman, Anthony Hartley-Woolley, MBE, JP read the lesson and gave the Exhortation.

Mr. Hartley-Woolley, who personally served in the Falklands for 5 months, said it was a lovely service to acknowledge all supporters within Worcestershire as we continue our work after 91 years and 'Stand shoulder to shoulder with all who serve'. It was also an honour to be joined by many that served in the Falklands Campaign as we marked this special anniversary.



## EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES SUB COMMITTEE

Three meetings have now been held of the newly formed Events and Activities Committee. Nick Martin organised the Lord Lieutenant's awards evening at The Guildhall, although a successful event, attendance could have been better.

The Rededication and Falklands Remembrance Service at Worcester Cathedral on May 13<sup>th</sup> was a success, with nearly forty standards present.

At our last meeting a talk was given by John Lee on recruitment. A seminar presented by John will be arranged if branches show enough interest.

Our next event will be a presence at The Three Counties Show. Further events are being discussed, including a series of recruitment drives in town centres across the county. Recruitment continues to be one of our main objectives.

David Waldron.  
Chair, Events and Activities committee.

# COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING

## Battle Back

A real case of standing Shoulder to Shoulder with those who serve.

I was very privileged to spend a day at the Battle Back Centre in Lillishore, Shropshire. The Royal British Legion has committed £30 million to provide and operate the centre, an adaptive sports and outdoor facility helping to rebuild confidence, unlock potential in rehabilitating wounded personnel.

The highlight of the day was meeting with one of the people who has already benefitted from the centre and learning how it has been a life changing experience. This is a truly inspirational example of the donations you help collect during the Poppy Appeal providing massively needed support.

## National Association of Retired Police Officers

Although this is a fairly recent development, we have been advised that the NARPO have agreed to help support the Poppy Appeal on a national basis. Formed in 1919, the organisation is almost 70,000 strong across its branches.

If your branch needs more volunteers, please advise me of any requirements you may have for volunteers and I will then contact them to see if they are able to offer us support in Worcestershire

## Volunteering

I have visited many Poppy Appeal Organisers in the County and a common theme is the need for more volunteers to help during the Appeal and indeed all through the year.

We need people to help with all aspects of fundraising, from spending a couple of hours to a couple of weeks during the Appeal collecting, from helping the organiser before the Appeal to helping count the cash. From cleaning the tins for the following year to taking the Poppy boxes to areas within the district. You can approach businesses in your local area to support us even more by taking an all year round collecting tin. There are many ways to help and support the Poppy Appeal.

Please contact Nick Martin – Community Fundraiser Worcestershire.  
Tel: 07732 432 921 or email [nmartin@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:nmartin@britishlegion.org.uk)

## COUNTY WEBSITE

Don't forget to visit our Website on a regular basis for all the latest news.

[www.britishlegion.org.uk/counties/worcestershire/groups--branches](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/counties/worcestershire/groups--branches)

# BRANCH TREASURERS' TRAINING COURSE



Back Row L to R: Ian Hooper, Sharon McIntosh, Jo-Anne D'Souza (Trainer)  
Front Row: John Chalmers, Alan Kelly, Norman Treece, Lyn Derrett

A Branch Treasurer's Course, carried out by a member of the National Training Team, recently took place over two days at Claines RBL Club.

It was intensive course but all of those attending felt it had been worthwhile and took away a great deal of information to pass onto their respective branches. They also carried away a little bit more weight because the standard of catering provided was excellent and all took advantage of it!

The one disappointment was that of the 12 places available only 6 were filled, by representatives from 5 branches. Opportunities to receive training within the county by a member of the National Team do not present themselves very often so it was a shame that more members did not put themselves forward.

In a comment from Alan Kelly (one of the students), he confirmed that all the students were happy with what they learnt, the venue and refreshments were excellent and due to the fact that only 6 of us were present, they did receive at times, one to one tuition and it was heralded a very worthwhile couple of days.

It is encouraging to note that two of the students have now enrolled on the Independent Examiners Course in September.

For details of further courses, contact Shaun McCarthy, County Secretary.

# HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

Members of Lickey End branch and their guests recently enjoyed a tour of the Houses of Parliament, and then met with their MP, Sajid Javid. The well-informed tour guide presented a fascinating glimpse of history during the 75-minute walk.

It is well worth considering a branch trip to Westminster; most MPs are very keen to be involved with Legion branches in their constituencies. The tours are free.



Lickey End branch and their guests with Bromsgrove MP, Sajid Javid.

## TENBURY WELLS & DISTRICT BRANCH NEWS

Tenbury Wells & District branch has announced that their current Poppy Appeal figure is now £9131. A statement from their branch treasurer, Roy Winton, said, "this is a fantastic figure for our branch, and praise must go to our PAO, Sue Perry. This is her first year in the role, and I feel that her enthusiasm and dedication has played a huge part in our success story"..

## FACTORY VISIT

Members of Worcestershire County have been invited to visit Newton Newton, flag makers in Lincolnshire. They are one of only five traditional flag makers in the UK. The trip round the factory would be on a weekend, and lasts for 90 minutes. There is no charge, and light refreshments are provided. If you are interested, please let Shaun know.

# WHAT'S ON IN WORCESTERSHIRE

OLDBURY ROYAL BRITISH LEGION  
Windsor Road

THE ROYAL BRITISH  
LEGION



Remembrance  
Garden  
Memorial  
Service

*As part of the Legion in the Community Campaign*

*Oldbury Royal British Legion*

*would like to invite you to:*

*A service to honour those who have served & are serving in the armed forces and also to remember those who have either given their lives or have been injured in the service of their country.*

*"If we forget, all was for nothing"*



Saturday 2nd June 2012  
Service 11.30 am

Safeguarding the welfare, interests and memory of those who have served in the armed forces.

 OLDDBURY ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

## Skittles evening

Wednesday 11 July - 7:30 pm  
Rubery & Rednal Royal British Legion Club,  
64 New Road, Rubery.

Teams of four

Cost £7 per person, to include buffet

More details from County Press Officer:  
Alan Kelly 0121 445 2574

THE ROYAL BRITISH  
LEGION



# WANTED

## ONE MILLION VETERANS TO SALUTE THE QUEEN



1952

2012

### VETERANS DIAMOND JUBILEE ROSETTE

THIS IS A ONCE ONLY APPEAL RUN BY VETERANS TO  
HONOUR THE QUEEN AND FUND VETERANS' CHARITIES.

BUY THE £5.00 ROSETTE AND WEAR IT FOR  
THE DIAMOND JUBILEE YEAR

FULL DETAILS AND ORDER FORM ON

[WWW.VETERANSROSETTE.CO.UK](http://WWW.VETERANSROSETTE.CO.UK)

OR PHONE/TEXT 07725 206 178

LEGION

# LET'S CELEBRATE THE diamond JUBILEE

On June 2nd  
Oldbury Royal British Legion,  
Windsor Road, Oldbury

Help us celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee with an old fashioned street party for our Members and our Neighbours.  
Between 2.00 and 4.00 on June 2nd 2012

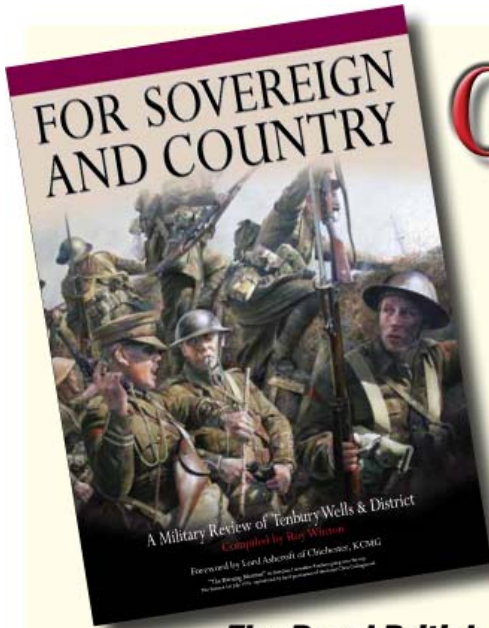
THE IDEA IS TO OFFER A FREE EVENT, WITH THOSE WHO ATTEND BRINGING ALONG SOME FOOD - BE IT SANDWICHES, CAKES OR JELLY, HOWEVER WE NEED YOUR INPUT, AS ITS YOUR PARTY.  
SO PLEASE DO NOT WALK ON BY

# WOUNDED.

The Birmingham Repertory Theatre Company will be performing *Wounded*, from 29 October to 10 November, at The Territorial Army Field Hospital in Kings Heath, providing audiences with an unbelievably authentic experience of war time care and history unlike any other theatrical experience.

More details in the next newsletter.

## LOCAL BOOK



On Sale  
Now  
£30

All profits from  
the sale of this book  
will be donated to

**The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal**

For Sovereign and Country was written by Roy Winton, treasurer of Tenbury Wells Branch. All the profit from the book sales will be donated to the Poppy Appeal. Roy has sold just over half of the print run, and would like to sell the rest before November, in order to be able to make a donation of £4,500 in November. Copies are available from Roy on 01584 810372, or from Books, Books, Books in Teme Street, Tenbury Wells.

# MILITARY CAMPAIGN MEDALS REVIEW

The Prime Minister has announced an independent review of the rules and principles governing the awarding of military campaign medals.

David Cameron announced that Sir John Holmes will carry out a fresh, Independent review taking account of the longstanding principles that have determined past decisions.

The Coalition Government stated its intention in its Programme for Government, published in May 2010, to review the rules governing the awarding of general campaign medals as a part of its commitment to rebuilding the Armed Forces Covenant.

The review will not consider individual gallantry awards, nor will it cover medals for long service or good conduct, which are the responsibility of parent government departments.

The review should draw on, but not necessarily be guided by, the work already undertaken as part of an initial Ministry of Defence medal review.

Sir John, who is currently Director at the Ditchley Foundation and formerly served as the UN's Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency and as Her Majesty's Ambassador in Paris and London, will be supported by a small team based in the Cabinet Office.

The review will ensure that all interested parties, including the veterans' organisations, are fully consulted, and aims to deliver a report with recommendations where appropriate for any change by the summer to the Government.

## MICHAEL BRINTON, LORD LIEUTENANT FOR WORCESTERSHIRE



The announcement of the death of Michael Brinton was received with great sadness by all Members of the Royal British Legion in Worcestershire. Having followed Sir Thomas Dunne as Lord Lieutenant for Worcestershire in 2002, he was approached by the County President, the Late Brigadier Rolph James for permission to continue to hold a Cadet Competition for the Poppy Appeal in the name of the Lord Lieutenant's Poppy Appeal Competition for Cadets. He eagerly gave permission for this and gave 100% support to this Competition and the many other Royal British Legion events until his sad Passing on Monday, April 23rd, 2012. It goes without saying that he will be sadly missed by all Members of the Legion in Worcestershire and indeed, by the Cadet Units he supported so well.

# MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL REPORT

Since May 2009 I have been attending Membership Council Meetings in London every four to six weeks. This is very time consuming and in recent months the duties and responsibilities of the Membership Council (MC) have increased significantly and are set to increase further following this year's National Conference.

The MC provides the Board of Trustees with a dedicated focus on the Royal British Legion Membership Organisation, in particular the needs of the members and the support they give to the Legion's charitable work. The MC has clearly defined responsibilities and may also make recommendations to the Board of Trustees on matters of policy appertaining to Membership.

Much of the day to day work of the MC is handled by electronic means; for all MC members are in fairly regular contact with each other by email. Currently there are only 7 MC members remaining, a further 5 will join the MC at National Conference following the recent elections.

Following the MC briefing on the 5 March the Midlands County Chairmen met and rec'd a briefing on Pathway for Growth from Martin Tighe, Board of Trustees: The changes which are being introduced are the product of significant study and are designed to improve our service to our beneficiaries. The impact on the membership is minimal as we will continue to operate within the existing structure. The new Vision and Corporate

Strategy is based on the 4 Pillars of Welfare, Representation, Remembrance & Comradeship – the membership has a key role in each. To achieve this requires a much stronger more visible Legion presence with offices on High Streets and clearly this will take time to achieve by way of a phased programme in consultation with present staff. There will be 3 Regions each with an Assistant Director Operations with offices in Manchester (North) Birmingham (Midlands) and Swindon (South). An Area Manager will be appointed for each of the 16 Areas. Each County Chairman will be eligible to have an office and in the short term that will be where the County Office is currently. The County Secretary will usually be located with the County Chairman.

**Philip Wilson,**  
**Membership Council Member (West Midlands)**

## ARTICLES FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER

As this is **your** newsletter if you have any news or forthcoming events then please send them to the County Press Officer. It is intended to publish a newsletter on a quarterly basis, so we need input from our members and branches. The articles are normally included on the County Website as well.

Alan Kelly. E-mail: [alan@alkel.co.uk](mailto:alan@alkel.co.uk). Telephone: 0121 445 2574.



Herefordshire  
& Worcestershire

# Active Age Festival

Christopher Whitehead Language College, Bromwich Road, Worcester  
Saturday 2nd June 2012, 10.00am - 4.00pm

Join us for a day of free activities!

## Activity Tasters

try for free: ♦ Exercise Classes ♦ Guided Walks ♦ Tai Chi ♦ real Lawn Bowls ♦ Solo Ballroom & Sequence Dance ♦ Drama Workshops

## Your Health

try for free: ♦ Fitness Checks ♦ Health Checks ♦ Eye Tests ♦ Reiki ♦ Reflexology ♦ Facial or Hand Massage

## Entertainment

enjoy: ♦ Opening Ceremony ♦ Dance Demonstrations ♦ Poetry ♦ Music ♦ Inspirational Speakers

## Your Community

Join in: ♦ Local Activity Clubs ♦ Craft Project ♦ Worcester Photo Quiz

## Jubilee Tea Dance

Dance to celebrate: ♦ London 2012 ♦ Queen's Diamond Jubilee ♦ Age UK Herefordshire & Worcestershire's 25th Anniversary ♦ your Active Age

For more information, contact:

Active Age Festival Team, Age UK Herefordshire & Worcestershire,  
Malvern Gate, Bromwich Road, Worcester WR2 4BN

# Tel: 0800 008 6077

Registered Charity No. 1080545

- Tai Chi Classes
- Exercise Classes
- Guided Walks
- Lawn Bowls
- Solo Dancing
- Drama Workshops
- Holistic Therapies
- Health Checks



public health  
*making good health happen*



# NATIONAL LIFE AWARDS

At the recent county quarterly meeting, Philip Wilson , Membership Council Member for the West Midlands, presented two very well deserved National Life Awards to:.

Mrs Lyn Bevington

Mr Fred Young DFM

In his presentation speech, Philip said “The National Chairman is unable to be with you today and he sends his best wishes. As the Membership Council Member for the West Midlands I have been asked to present two very well deserved National Life Awards.

Please accept the Membership Council’s thanks for all that you do as members of the Legion County of Worcestershire to support the Legion’s 4 pillars of:

Welfare, Representation, Remembrance and Comradeship – the membership has a key role in each.

Naturally I am delighted to be with you, all the more so because today is a very special day when we say thank you to two people present in this room for many years loyal and faithful service to the Legion County of Worcestershire”.

# THE BRAVO 22 COMPANY

The Royal British Legion, in partnership with the Theatre Royal Haymarket Masterclass Trust (Masterclass), the Army Recovery Capability and Royal Navy Recovery Pathway introduce The Bravo 22 Company.

The Bravo 22 Company is a project for wounded, injured and sick service personnel, currently in recovery capability programmes, who have signed up to create, rehearse and perform a new play, **The Two Worlds of Charlie F**.

Stephen Rayne (Royal Shakespeare Company, Royal National Theatre) directs the play, **The Two Worlds of Charlie F**, which is written by Owen Sheers (Passion, Resistance), and based on the experiences of the 30 wounded, injured and sick service personnel who are involved in the project.

The Bravo 22 Company project is overseen by Theatre Royal Haymarket Artistic Director, Sir Trevor Nunn. Ray Winstone is our ambassador.

The company are definitely to perform at the New Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham in the week commencing 16 July The BBC documentary on the project goes out on 22 June.

More details will be distributed as it becomes available.

# CONTACTS PAGE

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County President: AVM R J Honey. CB CBE.  
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County Chairman: Tony Hartley-Woolley MBE JP  
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Chairman: David Waldron.  
01905 453997

Treasurer: Patrick Smith.  
07949 789841

County Secretary. Shaun McCarthy.  
01905 621458

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01905 621051

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Officer: Fred Davies  
01905 641527

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