



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM ALL AT COUNTY

Message from the Chairman

This is my first Christmas message to you as your County Chairman.

My first year in office has been an eventful one. It started badly when in February at very short notice the County Office had to be vacated. With a lot of hard work and a lot of help from staff and volunteers it was possible to open our current office within 2 days and the work of the County continued with very little interruption. My thanks go to all who helped with this mammoth task.

At the invitation of Lord St. Oswald the County Celebrated the Queens Diamond Jubilee with Parade and Thanksgiving Service held at Nostell Priory.

The Poppy Launch held in Bradford was introduced by Christa Ackroyd from Look North which guaranteed TV coverage. We were able to take full advantage of Bradford's new water park by using it as a back drop for the parade and service. What a sight Standards Bearers parading on a path between two ponds of water and then over 100 children floating Poppys on the water. Beckford School concert band provided the music The Carleton Church of England Primary School Choir entertained us with some superb singing.

Many events during the year were held by Branches to celebrate the Queens Diamond Jubilee.

I'm sure you all enjoyed them in spite of the poor weather we had during the summer.

Throughout the year have tried to visit as many Branches and attend as many functions as possible. I thank Branches for the hospitality extended to me.

I wish you all and your families a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful 2013.

Accounts and MS1's

Thank you

To all those who have sent in their fully completed accounts and MS1's with documentation required

If you are having difficulties let us know asap and we will endeavour to assist.

2012 returns have to be in by 31 December to comply with the Royal Charter and Mangement hand book.

Complete with Bank statement showing the closing balance at 30 Sep and an Authority to disclose for each bank account held in the name of the Legion.

We say good bye to

- **George Metcalf, County Youth Officer and Nanette who worked very closely with him.**
- **Also to Nanette as the County Committee Rep for Bradford**
- **Aubrey Matin-Wells, County Committee rep for Barnsley.**
- **Ken Hallam as the County Committee Rep for Rotherham**

Thank you for all your hard work and enthusiasm

We say hello to

Peter Oxby, County Youth Officer.

Peter's details are as follows.

74 Ash Grove

South Elmsall

PONTEFRACT

WEST YORKSHIRE

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Pathway for Growth (PFG) is the Royal British Legion's Change Programme which is designed to put Welfare at the heart of our business and to shape the Charity to meet the challenges of the future. There will be a number of phases to the Programme, the first of which running until the end of the year. It will concentrate on establishing the 3 new Regional and 16 Area Offices. This phase will see the whole of Yorkshire coming under a new Area Office which will be based in Leeds. After an arduous application process, Chris Cunningham has been appointed Area Manager and will be responsible for implementing the changes. It is likely that there will also be some satellite offices established the County and it is likely that there will be a "High Street Presence" in the largest areas of population. We have been informed that the impact upon the membership of the Change Programme has been assessed as being minimal and that the membership will have important roles to play in the new structure we will keep you updated on developments as they occur.

Area managers update

Now that I have the final data in from a variety of welfare tracking sources, I thought you would be interested to know how many RBL beneficiaries received assistance within the Yorkshire area during the past Legion year (Oct 11 – Sep 12)

1. The RBL-funded Benefits & Money Advice (BMA) service being delivered through Citizens Advice (CAB Hambleton & Richmondshire, CAB Kirklees, CAB Scarborough & District and CAB Sheffield Debt Support Unit) assisted 926 beneficiaries, with a financial gain to the whole beneficiary group of £3.5 million. Of note, the overall financial gain to the beneficiary group in Yorkshire since the project started in 2007 now stands at £9.9 million. When this figure reaches £10 million I intend to promote this as a good news story in a range of Yorkshire media
2. The RBL handy van service (the Legion's own 2 vans in South and West Yorkshire and the 4 RBL-funded (and branded) vans with the Goodwin Trust in Hull) met the

needs of 1,050 beneficiaries, with 2,524 jobs being completed

3. The RBL-funded welfare service being provided in Hull by the Goodwin Trust (less their handy van service) assisted 854 beneficiaries across the city. The Legion have now funded Goodwin for a further 3 years and I will be working closely with their operational management team as they begin to expand their services across the whole of the East Riding
4. Finally the 2 Legion field offices in Leeds and York met the needs of 1,962 beneficiaries (funded or referred cases)

In summary then, 4,792 of our beneficiaries in Yorkshire were assisted in the past Legion year. This is the absolute number, based on our data tracking methods, however I believe the actual number is much higher; this is because some of our work is not currently accurately measured, e.g. our support to the wounded, injured and sick service community in the Personnel Recovery Unit and Personnel Recovery Centre in Catterick Garrison. The overall figure also does not include beneficiaries being assisted in Yorkshire through the Legion's centrally run welfare schemes (care homes, welfare breaks, pensions advice and so on).

In summary, I believe that the Armed Forces and Veteran community in Yorkshire is very well served and I thank all those who have contributed towards a great achievement.

Chris Cunningham
Area Manager - Yorkshire

NEW Membership Application Form

A new version of the old MS4 is now available. Gift aid declaration has had to be updated as instructed by Inland revenue. It is imperative that the new forms are used from 1 January 2013. No other version will be accepted by Head Office.

The new form can be downloaded from the Legions web site. Or contact nwren@britishlegion.org.uk or orpsummers@britishlegion.org.uk Or

Poppy Appeal on 01622 795801

Membership



The membership fee, as agreed at Annual Conference 2012 will increase from 1 October 2011 by £1 to £13.

* * *

RECRUITING AND PUBLICITY

IS YOUR BRANCH IN NEED OF NEW MEMBERS OR HAVING AN LIC EVENT AND NEED ANY INFORMATION? CONTACT DARREN BURTON COUNTY RECRUITING OFFICER ON 07734 137914 OR BY POST AT 18 SOUTHMOOR AVENUE, ARMTHORPE, DONCASTER DN3 3BB. *Daren has been asked by County Committee to visit all Groups during 2013. Can you please assist him with dates of your meetings*

Important Branch Information: Branches may contact the Lord Lieutenants Office direct if they would like to invite the Lord Lieutenant to a function. (The County Secretary must be informed and a County Officer must also be invited to the function).

If you require assistance in raising the profile of your branch or event please contact Andy Dixon, the Regional Publicity and Membership Officer (North): 0203 2072416
07796 194039 or 07734 137914
Fax : 01924 896516
adixon@britishlegion.org.uk

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Do You Have An Email Address?
Notify your local County Office of your email address and help cut our administration costs!
Simply complete the form at the end of this newsletter & return to County Office.

Please keep County updated if you change your e.mail address

YOUTH AFFILIATION CELEBRATED IN SOUTH YORKSHIRE 30th July Doncaster

A presentation evening organised by the New Rossington Branch was an opportunity to recognise the contributions of local youth supporters by presenting Certificates of Affiliation.

The affiliation helps to attract new, younger members and demonstrates a mutual respect between our organisations. It also encourages greater interaction and aids the Branch and Units in working well together."

IS YOUR BRANCH HOSTING AN EVENT?
Tell us about it and we will advertise it for you here and online.
The next Newsletter is expected to be circulated in March 2013

Have you seen our county web site? Find it at www.britishlegion.org.uk (then look for 'Counties' at the bottom of the page)



COUNTY EVENTS

County Dinner



Cedar Court Hotel. Bradford

Once again the overwhelming consensus of the evening was that it had been a success and those members and guests who attended enjoyed themselves. Dining and dancing until late.

Please note change of date
County Conference to be held at Ossett
Town Hall
12 January 2013

GUEST SPEAKER
Jo-Anne DSouza
National Training Officer



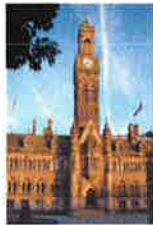
Queen Elizabeth II visited

The Poppy Factory,

that makes the iconic red emblem of the British Legion's annual poppy appeal, at the company headquarters in Richmond on November 07, 2012 in London England.

The Poppy Factory is one of the official poppy emblem manufacturers since 1922. Just in 2012 alone, the factory has made 12 million poppies and 107,000 wreaths.

The Poppy Factory also helps wounded veterans and dependents of service personnel find employment with companies across the UK



County Poppy Appeal Launch Bradford

Beckford School concert band provided the music
The Carleton Church of England Primary School
Choir entertained us with some superb singing.
The Standard Bearers as always did us proud.

Thank you to all those who helped.

STANDARD BEARERS DRESS:

Branches are reminded that when standard bearers are representing branches they must be correctly dressed. It has been observed that some standard bearers are wearing the incorrect cap badges and blazers with association badges. The standard Bearer's Dress code can be found in the Ceremonial Handbook.



Ackworth & Pontefract Branch



At the AGM held on 7th October 2012, Mr John Gardener relinquished the chair after many years as our branch chairman. In appreciation for his great contribution to the Ackorth and Pontefract Branch, John was presented with a model 25 pounder. In a previous life, John was a Senior NCO in the Royal Artillery and enjoys regaling us with tales of this iconic weapon. The presentation was made by our treasurer, Mr Andy Page. Our newly elected chairman, Mr Reg Greenough added his thanks to the retiring chairman. John will continue to be an active member of the branch.

Hemsworth Remembrance - Hemsworth Remembrance day abstract

THOUSANDS of people paid their respects to fallen soldiers on Remembrance Sunday.

Services and parades took place in South Kirkby, Hemsworth and South Elmsall to mark the sacrifices of the armed forces in the First World War and conflicts since.

Chairman of the South Elmsall Royal British Legion branch Pete Oxby said: "The streets were absolutely packed, there were more people than ever before,

around 1,500 came along. I have never seen the parade so long."

Veterans, town councillors, Girl Guides, Brownie Guides, Air, Sea and Army Cadets, and people serving in the forces all marched with the Carlton Main and Frickley Colliery bands leading the way to St Mary's Church, Doncaster Road, for the service.

Mr Oxby said: "It was tremendous, I was proud to be the chairman of the branch."



Hundreds of Hemsworth residents also turned out to pay tribute to those who gave their lives defending the country.

There was a parade from the community centre to St Helen's Church for the service before marching back to the centre for the salute at the Remembrance Garden.

Chairman of the Hemsworth branch Jean Price said: "It was brilliant. It was a great turnout, the church was full and we had lots of people waiting for us on the way back.

"We had a great turnout from lots of people and it was a fitting tribute."



South Kirkby's branch secretary Derek James also said it was the best turnout he had seen in years.



He said: "It was fantastic, there were at least 100 people there. It was great for so many came together to show their respects."

Children from the sea cadets and St John's Ambulance joined in and Crofton Silver band played at the parade.

Pupils at Moorthorpe Primary School also held a special assembly to mark the date, on Friday.

Youngsters read poems they had written inspired by poetry from soldiers in the First World War.

Nine-year-old Jack Naylor read a letter from King George V addressed to one of his older relatives thanking him for fighting for his country.

Deputy headteacher Pauline Pollard said: "It was a very moving experience for everyone."



Former paratrooper James Gunning (centre) lays his wreath

Former paratrooper James Gunning was among veterans paying his respects during the Remembrance service in Silsden last Sunday.

Royal British Legion volunteers took James from Spring Bank nursing home to the service at the town's war memorial.

The commemoration began with a parade along the main street to the Memorial Gardens, where a service was led by the St James's Church vicar the Rev David Griffiths.



NOW THAT'S A BIG POPPY.

Barnsley Market is wearing this massive poppy with pride. Barnsley Council and the Barnsley branch of the Market Traders Federation have joined together to display this symbol of the town's proud support for the annual poppy campaign and the vital work of the Royal British Legion.

Villagers in Oakworth turn out to pay their respects





The Remembrance service at Oakworth

Around 300 people turned out at the war memorial in Holden Park to pay tribute not only to the many people killed in wars protecting our country, but also to the young men and women currently serving in the nation's armed forces.

Poppy wreaths were laid by Peter Corkindale on behalf of Keighley Town Council, Glen Miller on behalf of Bradford Council, John Sugden on behalf of Oakworth Village Society and Chief Inspector Horner on behalf of the police.

Janet Armstrong read about the work of the Royal British Legion on behalf of servicemen and women and their families as well as the veterans of past wars.

Prayers were said by the Rev John Rogers, the last post was played by Shaun Leeson and the entire community sang Abide With Me and narrated together the poem Leisure by William Henry Davies.

Keighley pays its respects on Remembrance Day

A group of about 30 people paid their respects to the casualties of war at Keighley's Garden of Remembrance.

They braved the cold to assemble in Town Hall Square on the Thursday before Remembrance Sunday.

Among those present were armed forces veterans and Royal British Legion members, the deputy mayor of Keighley and several town councillors.

A reading at the start of the short service was delivered by the Rev Sandie Exley-Watts, the Methodist minister at Keighley Shared Church.

She prayed for reconciliation between different countries to ensure freedom, peace and justice for their populations.

She asked those in attendance to remember all those who have died in wars past and present.

A bugler played the Last Post and the standards representing the Duke of Wellington's Regiment and the Royal British Legion were lowered.

The gathering then observed a two-minute silence and Peter Faulkner, president of the Keighley branch of the Royal British Legion, read out the Ode of Remembrance.

Speaking after the service, he said this year's Poppy Appeal in Keighley had missed the services of 101-year-old ex-Royal Marine Albert Joyner, who now lives in a home outside Keighley district.

- **A record number turnout to pay their respects on Remembrance Day**

Mr Joyner served in the Second World War and has been one of Keighley's most dedicated and respected appeal collectors.

Mr Faulkner added: "We're looking forward to beating our figure for last year, which was more than £32,000."

Church service honours heroes

6:53pm Thursday 15th November 2012 in News By David Knights



All Saints' Church priest the Rev Dr Jonathan Pritchard prepares for the



Fallen heroes of a Keighley parish were named and honoured during a special service at All Saints' Church in Keighley.

Details of each of the 17 young men from the church, who died in the First World War, were read out on Sunday.

The 160-strong congregation, which included war veterans, clergy and civic dignitaries, learned about the lives of each of the soldiers.

The service was held at the Anglican church in Highfield Lane to mark the renovation of a stained-glass window.

The window is believed to be Keighley's earliest war memorial.

The Bishop of Bradford, the Right Rev Nick Baines, who re-dedicated the window, said the window was unusual because it was created before the end of the First World War.

He said: "Perhaps that is why, instead of having some saintly or heavenly figure at its heart, it has a crucified Jesus next to a dead soldier in the trenches."

The Right Rev Baines said he was struck not only by the 16 soldiers whose biographies were read out, but by the 17th who was known only by his name. He said that what happened to such men as 2nd Lieutenant SA Baker – and countless other war dead buried across Europe – really mattered.

He said: "It matters because the emptiness behind the name, the lack of a story, if you like, confronts us with a question: what value does he have if we know nothing about him?"

"Every name belonged to a person who belonged to some family somewhere. Each one had a face and a mother and a father and a place of belonging."

The Rev Dr Jonathan Pritchard, the priest at All Saints, said the window was remarkable.

He said many other war memorials shied away from depicting the more brutal aspects of combat.

WORLD WAR I CENTENARY TO BRING NATION TOGETHER, SAYS LEGION

The Royal British Legion welcomes Prime Minister David Cameron's announcement of support for World War I centenary observations, saying the anniversary "will bring the nation together as one in Remembrance."

Chris Simpkins, the Legion's Director General, said:

"The tragic events of 1914-1918 have left a deep imprint on the fabric of the nation. As the Custodian of Remembrance, the Legion will ensure that the centenary will be observed across the UK – the costs of sacrifice and the lessons learned in this dreadful conflict must not be forgotten."

Mr Simpkins said it was fitting that central government would provide support for national and international commemorations, while leaving it up to voluntary membership organisations such as The Royal British Legion to decide on local observances.

"The losses of World War I were felt in every town and village across the UK, as demonstrated by the monuments found in nearly every village green or churchyard," he said. "It is right and proper that the centenary has a strong local flavour."

The Royal British Legion has been working in partnership alongside organisations such as the Imperial War Museum and the Prime Minister's special envoy for centenary observances, Dr Andrew Murrison MP.



“Founded in the aftermath of World War I, the Legion has faithfully kept Remembrance and reminded the nation of its collective debt to those who Serve, which the Legion expresses through its on-going support and campaigning on behalf of our Armed Forces family,” said Mr. Simpkins.

“We will be working alongside partner organisations to ensure that the events of a century ago, and their enduring relevance for today, are not forgotten.”

The Royal British Legion was founded in 1921 when ex-Service organisations arising from World War 1 joined together to provide relief and to campaign for jobs and housing. “Today, nearly a century later, the Legion continues to stand shoulder to shoulder with all who Serve,” added Mr Simpkins.

“The principles on which the Legion was founded remain as relevant today as they were in the aftermath of World War I – in fact, they are to be found in the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant which the Legion recently helped pass into law.”

As Custodian of Remembrance, the Legion raises public awareness of the sacrifice and service of the British Armed Forces, facilitates Remembrance events to allow the nation to pay its respects and ensures people of all ages can learn of the debt we owe to those who have served and those still serving.

It organises events such as the Two Minute Silence, the Festival of Remembrance and the Cenotaph march past; it maintains the National Memorial Arboretum as the UK’s year-round centre of Remembrance and it reaches 2.5m young people each year with Remembrance learning resources provided freely to schools and youth organisations. It also organises the annual Poppy Appeal to encourage Remembrance while raising much-needed

funds for the support of the Armed Forces community.

“Remembrance connects what has gone before with what lies ahead – if we learn by remembering, we can shape a better future,” said Mr Simpkins.

“We saw the UK come together in the unforgettable summer of 2012 through the joyous national celebrations of the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee and the Olympic Games,” he added. “We believe that November 2014 will bring the nation together once again, perhaps to a more solemn purpose, but one no less unifying.”

‘ALL ABOARD’ THE NEW ALDERSON HOUSE MINI-BUS

The Royal British Legion’s Poppy Break Centre in Bridlington takes delivery of their brand new minibus.

Thanks to the many generous donations received from branches of the Legion nationwide plus the support of the general public, volunteers and staff raising funds throughout the last few years, Alderson House took delivery of their £49,500.00 Mercedes Sprinter minibus last month.

The bus seats 16 people plus the driver and is wheelchair accessible using an automatic tail-lift system. Fitted with extra comfort coach seats the bus also has a climate control system, automatic side door, reversing camera and luxury interior trim details.

Helen Birkbeck, Manager of Alderson House said ‘Having this new bus will make a real difference to the service we offer our guests whilst out on excursions. Our old mini-bus did not seat enough people, especially when we had to remove seats to accommodate wheelchair users. The coach seats were also uncomfortable for long journeys and it had no climate control. I thank everyone that had a part in raising this amazing sum of money to enable us to make this purchase’

Guests have already enjoyed trips out to various places of interest in the area and Mac the driver reports that they all say that the journey has been most comfortable plus it ‘drives like a dream!’



Bingley Branch



Following a presentation at Cadet HQ by James Lewis on his expedition to the Himalayas and one by Brioney Williams-Young on her expedition to Canada, both with the Bingley detachment of the Army Cadet Force, We welcomed 11 new Youth Members into the Royal British Legion and presented them with their Welcome Packs.

We are in regular contact with the Cadets - their S/Sgt usually attends our meetings; our President's wife is their President; our President, his wife and I also attend many of their "Evening" parades and we are trying to arrange a "competition" night in the near future".

Information regarding Photograph
Attached is a photograph taken after the presentation, showing Mr David Dickerson (left), President, and Chairman Jim Dowzall (right).

The Cadets are taking a very active part in our Remembrance Parade and Service this year. The Royal British Legion Standard is being carried by our own Standard Bearer who was previously a member of the Cadet Force, and will lead the Parade.

He will be followed by the Standard Bearer for the ACF with their flag which bears the RBL Badge. Positioned at the Cenotaph will be a senior Cadet who will recite the Exhortation. The Parade will, naturally include a detachment from the ACF also.

We have also offered to assist in any way we can when they are undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh's Scheme.

On 10th November when we have our Poppy Time stall in Bingley Market Square, the ACF have arranged for their recruiting team to be present with their trailer.

We are trying to foster a relationship between us and the Cadets, for they are the Legion Members of the future.

**Otley Royal British Legion branch
raises £13,000 in 90th year**

1:00pm Friday 23rd November 2012 in [News](#)
Otley branch of the Royal British Legion is celebrating raising more than £13,000 in its 90th anniversary year. The group laid on a number of birthday events, including a recent concert by the Salvation Army Yorkshire Friendship Band, which raised £300, and a stall run by the Army Cadets which raised £500, to boost its total for the Poppy Appeal.

Collections at the town's Sainsbury's store, over two weeks in November, brought in £3,136.

Branch secretary and honorary citizen Doris Gagen said: "Everyone has worked very hard and we would like to thank all the collectors, those who helped count the money and, most of all, the general public who still give generously in the present financial climate."



NOW that's a Big poppy.

Barnsley Market is wearing this massive poppy with pride.

Barnsley Council and the Barnsley branch of the Market Traders Federation have joined together to display this symbol of the town's proud support for the annual poppy campaign and the vital work of the Royal British Legion.

OBITUARIES

Again, we must say a sad farewell to members of the County who have passed away since the last newsletter.

Batley:

Mr H Bentley

Bingley (1944):

Mr R Hill

Brighouse:

Mr M Firth

Chapelton:

Keighley

Mr A Lees

Mr D Osgathorpe

Mr G Bradley

Mr D Futtier

Collingham

Mr P Boyle

Dewsbury:

Mr R Andrews

Doncaster Central:

Mr A Hewitt

Elland Greetland & District:

Mrs D Ellis

Mr M Townsend

Mr W Cook

Featherstone:

Mr D Hunt

Guisley:

Mr F Hanson

Headingley:

Mr F Rhodes

Hoyland:

Mrs M Burkinshaw

Kinsley:

Mr T Williams

Mr D Milnes

Low Moor & Wyke
Mrs V Stainthorpe

Marsden:

Mrs E Lingard

Mexborough:

Mr F Parkin

Mr H Thomas

New Rossington:

Mr J Morton

Penistone:

Mr R Barraclough

Mr AJ Proost

Mr C Bedford

Mr NHT Martin

Keighley

Mr A Lees

Mr J Pearson

Mr C Ruddy

Mr PR French

Mr JO Lowson

Mr J Clare

Shepley:

Mr P Forbes

Sheffield South:

Mrs A O'Brien

Mr D Olfield

Socksbrige & Deepcar:

Mr B Rawlinson

Mr B Barratt

Spensorough

Mr B Smith

Lowmoor & Wyke

Mr R Moore

Thorne:

Mrs Y Walker

Mr A Stanley

Thorner & Scarcroft

Mr E Woodhead

Todmorden:

Mr I Cooper

Wetherby:

Mr E Dixon



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County Treasurer
 Brian Jones
brianjanet@talktalk.net

County Youth Officer
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EMAIL CONTACT DETAILS:
If this is a change of the Branch email address please indicate

Branch Name:

Branch No:

Member Name:

Position Held:

Relationship to Branch Secretary:

Email Address:

Date:

Branch Secretary Signature:

*Charity no 219279
 Sep2012*

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