



County Chairman Bernard Page, County Chaplin Rev Dr Jocelyn Lewis, County Vice-Chairman Stuart Allen at on parade at Chesterfield after the Thanksgiving Service.

County Chairman's Commentary

Over the past few months we have experienced three events in the County associated with the 90th Anniversary of the Royal British Legion. Each of these events have in their own way celebrated this anniversary, brought our members together, and also let the General Public know what the Legion is about day in day out.

These three events are reported elsewhere in this magazine, but it would be remiss of me if I didn't mention the County Vice Chairman, our Community Fundraiser and their small Committee for the fine job they have done over the past months. Stuart as Chairman of the team has led from the front, ensuring that the County has been professional in all that it has done in the public domain. Christine Selden, who recently returned from maternity leave, has assured that we were all in the right place at the right time and importantly that the Media knew what we were doing.

As a real bonus, it looks as if we will make a profit from the Concert which with the Raffle proceeds will certainly help towards the National Target of £90M in our 90th Year. The Raffle will be drawn at Chatsworth Country Fair to be held on the first weekend in September so I ask that you purchase your tickets without delay - You cannot win a £1,000.00 without a ticket!

On top of all the above, the Legion's National Conference was held in May at Telford, which was somewhat different to being at the seaside. Detailed reports and information regarding the results of motions, reports, speeches, etc are all to be found on the Legion's Website.

Bernard Page County Chairman

At the Ilkeston Carnival

Ilkeston Carnival was on Saturday 11th June and Members of Ilkeston Branch borrowed the County tent for the occasion. It certainly showed the people of Ilkeston what the Legion was all about.



Marion & Brian Brown selling raffle tickets, Ken Protheroe and our Secretary Ken Foster are also at the tent



Brian Brown persuading a member of the public that a £1 chance to win £1000 is a good deal

Words and pictures supplied by Malcom Jarvis

Long Eaton Branch RBL attend re-opening of the BUPA Alexandra Nursing Home



Branch Standard, Members and residents inside the entrance

On Thursday 17th February 2011 the Long Eaton Branch RBL was invited to the re-opening of the BUPA Alexandra Nursing Home in Long Eaton by the Home's Manager Geraldine Martin. The Legion was invited because many of the residents suffer from dementia and most are ex-service.



Branch Standard, President Colin Harrison and Geraldine Martin with the plaque on the wall

Colin Harrison President of the Branch was asked to cut the ribbon and BUPA were so confident Colin was going to be able to do it they had placed a plaque on the wall which read:

“Alexandra Nursing Home was officially re-opened following refurbishment by Colin Harrison President of the Long Eaton Branch Royal British Legion on Thursday 17th February 2011. BUPA”.

A “Street Party” had been laid on with entertainment which everybody enjoyed. The staff had even gone to the trouble of wearing various military uniforms for the occasion.

It is the intention of the Branch Members to try and maintain a link with the Home because most of the residents are ex-service.



Geraldine Martin looks on as Colin Harrison cuts the ribbon



The residents enjoying a "Street Party"



Branch Secretary Paul Whant and Member Nigel Townend with the singer (whose name is not known, no one asked) enjoying a sing song with the residents

The Photographs were taken by BUPA's official photographers “Redshift Photography” who supplied us with a CD with them on and removed the copyright restrictions and gave us their kind permission to print copies and to publish them.

Written by John P. Irwin Long Eaton Branch Treasurer and Editor of this magazine.

Ashbourne Branch RBL Poppy Presentation Evening

On 1st April 2011 the Ashbourne Branch RBL presented awards to four people who had served 185 years as poppy sellers between them and also on the same night a presentation was made to a past Chairman who had served the Ashbourne Branch also as a Committee Member and as Secretary.

Branch Chairman Mr Tony Millward welcomed all the poppy sellers and their guests and said it had to be one of the largest number of years of service for four people in the Country and thanked them all. Also Mr Barry Brown and his wife Mary for their long service. He then introduced the Lord Lieutenant of Derbyshire William Tucker who presented the awards.



Group photo from L TO R John Peregrine, Tribby Shaw, Lord Lieutenant of Derbyshire Mr. William Tucker, Barry Brown, Mary Brown, Charles Allen and Pat French



Barry brown and his wife Mary with the Mantle Clock and bouquet of flowers presented for long service to the Branch. Mr Barry Brown said after his surprise presentation of a Mantle Clock for long Service to the Branch "It is so nice to be presented with the clock, after being in the Army for 24 years, I have served the Branch since I came out.

The work of the Legion is so important in the 90th year of the Poppy Appeal, and my wife and I would like to thank the Committee".



Tribby Shaw said after her award for 60 years, that she had been collecting since she was twelve but did help her grandfather for five years before that. It was so nice to see so many friends and family there and that she was proud but a little overwhelmed.

Tribby said she started collecting in 1950, in that time she had seen many changes such as there used to be a penny box for children made out of paper and the men's poppy had no leaf but the woman's did. We used to assemble our own poppies, they gave us the flowers and black buttons separately. The age you could start collecting went up to 15 and there was a lot of rules in those days. I have been told the record for poppy collecting is 70 years so I will see you in ten years time.



Mrs. Pat French said after her award for 50 years, I think it is quite an honour actually but an award never entered my head, it is just something that I've always done.



Mr. John Peregrine said after his award for 45 years, I am very pleased with the award and over the years I have had the odd refusal now and again but otherwise people have been very good.

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Mr. Charles Allen said after his award for 30 years, I feel very proud with my award.

Photos by kind permission of Ashbourne News Telegraph

Tony Millward
Chairman Ashbourne Branch RBL

Reception at County Hall Matlock for the Derbyshire County Founding Branches

The 90th Anniversary events in the County started on the 25th March at County Hall Matlock. The Reception was hosted by Derbyshire County Council for the eleven founding branches in the County (see below).

Branch	Formed
Spondon	03/06/1921
Buxton	15/06/1921
Chesterfield	22/06/1921
Cromford	01/07/1921
Swadlincote & District	01/07/1921
Ilkeston	11/07/1921
Long Eaton	24/07/1921
Belper	25/07/1921
Wirksworth	28/08/1921
Matlock & Darley Dale	17/09/1921
Bakewell & District	01/11/1921

There was a Parade of Standards, the County Standard leading the eleven Branch Standards into the reception room.



County Standard Bearer Malcolm Jarvis and the eleven Branch Standards waiting to parade into the reception room

Each branch sent up to eight members and were seated at a table for each branch.



Long Eaton Branch table: Standing left to right Standard Bearer Kevin Townend, President Colin Harrison, Treasurer & Editor John P. Irwin, Seated left to right Fred Pepper, Claire Smith, Chairman Paul Jarvis, Nigel Townend and David Philips.

The welcome was given by Councillor Robin Baldry Chairman of Derbyshire County Council. The response was by Mr. John Farmer National Chairman of the Royal British Legion. The Mayor of Derby, Councillor Amar Nath gave an address on behalf of the City Council. The thanks was given by Mr. Bernard Page County Chairman of Derbyshire RBL.

Councillor Robin Baldry invited anyone interested into the large Council Chamber and explained how the Council conducts its business there. The evening lasted about two hours and the buffet was very good.

Written by and Pictures supplied by
John P Irwin, Editor

The Service of Thanksgiving

A Service of Thanksgiving was held at the Parish Church of St Mary and All Saints (with the famous crooked spire) on Sunday 3rd April 2011. In the presence of The Lord Lieutenant of Derbyshire Mr. William Tucker, the Mayor and Mayoress of Chesterfield and the High Sheriff of Derbyshire.

The Service was lead by the Vicar of St Mary and All Saints the Reverend Canon Michael Knight. The Lord Lieutenant for Derbyshire Mr William Tucker, who is also The Patron of Derbyshire Royal British Legion, read from the Gospel according to St John. The Address was given by the Bishop of Manchester the Right Reverend Nigel McCulloch, who is also the National Chaplain to The Royal British Legion. Following on with the Intercessions was the Derbyshire County Chaplin the Reverend Doctor Jocelyn Lewis.



Bishop of Manchester, The Right Reverend Nigel McCulloch, who is the Chaplain to the Royal British Legion
Picture supplied from the Derbyshire County RBL website

During the Service, the Standards from the eleven Branches that were founded in 1921 were paraded to the altar, where they were re-dedicated by the Bishop.



Picture supplied from the Derbyshire County RBL website

The County President, Bill Else, pronounced the Act of Homage and the Kohima Exhortation and the Last Post and Reveille were played by Bugle Major Adrian Harper RM (Retd).

Music throughout the Service was provided by The TA Nottingham Band of The Royal Engineers under Bandmaster WO1 (BM) M S Kerwin. The Band then went on to head the Parade from the church to Chesterfield Town Hall.

The Parade of Band, Legion Standards and Members were joined in the march to Chesterfield Town Hall by Members of the RBL Riders Branch and Army Cadets from the Chesterfield Detachment led by Sergeant Instructor Littlewood.



The TA Nottingham Band of the Royal Engineers
Picture by John P. Irwin



County RBL Chaplain Reverend Doctor Jocelyn Lewis, County RBL Vice-Chairman Stuart Allen, Legion Standards and Members on parade to Chesterfield Town Hall
Picture by John P. Irwin

1921



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Members of the Riders Branch RBL near the rear of the parade
Picture supplied by John P. Irwin



Chesterfield Detachment of the Army Cadets led by Sgt. Instructor Littlewood
Picture supplied by John P. Irwin



Picture supplied from the Derbyshire County RBL website

The salute was taken on the Town Hall steps by The Lord Lieutenant of Derbyshire, Mr William Tucker and County Civic Dignitaries.

These four pictures supplied by John P. Irwin

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The Parade then passed by and saluted Chesterfield's War Memorial before falling out.



ChesterField's War Memorial opposite the Town Hall steps

Top two pictures supplied by Paul Neilson
Memorial Picture supplied by John P Irwin

Concert in the Cathedral

The Royal British Legion organised nationally a series of concerts to mark the 90th Anniversary of the forming of The Royal British Legion in 1921. Known collectively as Concerts in the Cathedrals, the Derbyshire concert billed as 'The Angel and the Fallen' was held in Derby Cathedral, on Saturday 7th May 2011.

The star of the show was Lesley Garrett CBE, Britain's most popular soprano, the show also featured The Band of the King's Division, the Combined Choirs of Derby Cathedral and the Cathedral Organ.

The show began in typical Legion manner with The March of "The British Legion" during which the Union Jack (Flag) and the County Standard were paraded into the Cathedral. Then followed the National Anthem with the dipping of the Standards.

The Reverend Canon Dave Perkins performed the introduction and also provided a narrative throughout the evening. The Band of the King's Division and the Combined Choirs of Derby Cathedral performed some numbers before Lesley Garret took up her position at the front of the Cathedral wearing a sparkling pale-gold outfit. The superstar launched into her first number of the evening, Going Home, with the accompaniment of Derby Cathedral Choir. During the evening Lesley sang numbers, which included Amazing Grace, You'll Never Walk Alone and Where e'er You Walk. For the second half, she changed into a dress that was adorned with red poppies in respect to the Legion's annual Poppy Appeal.



Lesley Garrett CBE

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The Band of the King's Division, was conducted in the first half by Bandmaster; Warrant officer Class One Craig Bywater BMus (Hons) and in the second half by the Director of Music; Captain James Marshall BMus (Hons)

The Combined Boys, Girls and Songmen Choirs of Derby Cathedral were conducted by Master of Music; Peter Gould and the Organist was Tom Corfield.

Operation Fallen Hero



The Air Training Corps is celebrating its 70th Anniversary this year. Being formed on 5th February 1941.

To celebrate this anniversary, 1211 (Swadlincote) Sqn ATC came up with the idea of “Operation Fallen Hero” to place a cross of Remembrance on every War Memorial in South Derbyshire. This they did on Saturday 11th June 2011.

Swadlincote Branch RBL were invited to lay the final wreathes as it is the 90th Anniversary of the Legion.

A collection was made in Swadlincote town centre and £98.96 was raised for the Poppy Appeal. The Air Cadets were being sponsored. The amount they raised is not know at the time of writing, but they will be donating some of the amount raised to the Poppy Appeal.

There was a service at the Eureka Park gates in Swadlincote which is the main War Memorial where we lay our wreathes in November.



The Standard Party of 1211 (Swadlincote) Sqn ATC at the Eureka Park Gates Swadlincote

The Derbyshire Legion



Fred Cox, Treasurer Swadlincote Branch RBL laying the wreath on behalf of the Branch.



Fit Lt Alyn Thompson OC 2011 (Swadlincote) Sqn ATC with Councillor Michael Stanton, Chairman of South Derbyshire District Council, it is not known who the Vicar is.

After the service we returned to the ATC Sqn HQ for a cup of tea and a chat and where we saw some of the cadets putting together their reports – All of the information gathered, pictures etc. when compiled into the finished report will be given to the Magic Attic, a local history archive and South Derbyshire District Council for safe keeping.

We now hope to forge stronger links with the ATC and as well as visiting them on a parade night this month, we will also be having a stand at their Open Day on 10th July.

Glyn Jackson, Acting Membership Secretary Swadlincote Branch RBL

The Derbyshire Legion

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