



Long Eaton Branch 90th Anniversary Party 24th July 2011

On Sunday 24th July 2011 the Long Eaton Branch celebrated their formation day with a party at the Sportsman on Derby Road Long Eaton. HQ of the Branch from 1938 to 1959 when it was Haig House Club. As Members and guests arrived they had their photograph taken in front of the County Union Jack (Flag) and the Branch Standard by **Stuart Robertson** a student at De Montford University.

Invited guests were Erewash MP Jessica Lee (centre), The Mayor of Erewash, Councillor Kevin Miller (right) and RBL Derbyshire County Chairman Bernard Page (left) cutting the Anniversary cake.

The left hand picture below shows Alf Cross in the wheelchair. Alf celebrated his 90th Birthday on 5th August. He served 5 years in the RAF Regiment. Also in the picture from the left is 92 year old Fred Pepper who served in the Corps of Military Police during WWII. Helen Munns and Flt Lt Allan Munns who served in the RAF and is currently with the Air Training Corps.

John Coleman right hand picture celebrated his 90th Birthday on the 3rd November. John served in the Royal Navy and the Parachute Regiment during WWII.

Text by John P. Irwin, Editor
Pictures by Stuart Robertson



County Chairman's Commentary

I extend congratulations to all who had a part in, or contributed in any way to our major fundraising activities during 2011, the RBL's 90th Anniversary year.

The County has contributed the profit of **£4,317.70** from the Cathedral Concert and **£1,602.20** from our County Raffle to the Anniversary Fund. Almost **£6,000.00** is an excellent figure and I am most appreciative of all members' contribution to this total.

The County Standard Bearer Competition took place on Saturday 8 October in the Parish Rooms at Wirksworth with three entrants. Malcolm Jarvis from Ilkeston was the winner and will be the County Standard Bearer when he is appointed at our January Annual Conference being held at Whitwell. The other two entrants were entering the competition for the first time, Martin Mills from Allenton and Sam Clarke from Whitwell. I was most pleased to see them both in the competition and look forward to them both challenging Malcolm. Martin just edged out Sam by a couple of marks and will assume the position of Deputy County Standard Bearer again at Whitwell.

The Launch of the County Poppy Appeal this year took place at the B2net Stadium, which is the home of Chesterfield Football Club. The first Poppy was "bought" by the Chairman of the Club, Barrie Hubbard, supported by his wife Janet and members of the Riders Branch who were there on their motor cycles, making plenty of noise.

As we approach the end of 2011, Anne and I wish all members and their families a Very Merry Christmas together with a most happy and successful 2012.

Bernard Page Derbyshire RBL County Chairman

Heanor Branch present a cheque to the National Memorial Arboretum Appeal



In July Heanor Branch Members present a cheque to the NMA Appeal for £8300.00 at NMA Alrewas Staffordshire with the Armed Forces Memorial in the background.



Hartington Legion – Cheque Presentation

Following a series of fundraising events at Hartington, the Vice-Chairman, Mr Peter Warrington presented a £1405.00 cheque to the Derbyshire RBL County Chairman, Mr Bernard Page, for the Legion's 90th Anniversary Appeal on the 15th July.

Below is some of the people who helped to raise the money with Peter Warrington.

Pictures supplied by Dawn Stevens



trent barton Buses Wear The Poppy



Pictured above is 92 year old Fred Pepper and 17 year old Ben Whittall a Cpl in the ACF and Branch Youth Member with Sarah Taylor.

Branch Members on the right: Alan Fairbrother, Sandra Jarvis, Branch Fundraiser, Paul Jarvis Chairman and deputy Standard Bearer, Nigel Townend and Beryl Cameron.

Fred was a driver on Barton Buses after he was demobbed following WWII on the old No. 5 Route now Indigo. He could not resist seating in the driver's seat and having his picture taken.

trent barton have put a large Poppy on fifty of their fleet of buses. The Nottingham-Derby Indigo buses have been wearing them since the 30th October. In Derby the Mickleover buses have also have them on. It is *trent barton's* way of paying tribute to the brave men and women who have served or are serving in the Armed Forces of this Country.

A cheque for £500 was donated to the Long Eaton Branch for the Poppy Appeal. On the 3rd November Branch Members turned out in Market Place Long Eaton for a photo shoot organised by Sarah Taylor *trent barton* Marketing Manager.

Paul Jarvis Chairman of the Branch said "We are very grateful to *trent barton* for their generous support. The Legion relies heavily on donations from businesses as well as the generosity of the millions of individuals who support us by buying a Poppy".

Text and pictures supplied by Sarah Taylor, *trent barton* Marketing Manager.

Oakwood Branch out Recruiting



Our Recruiting & Poppy stall at Chaddesden Carnival in the picture are from the left: Colin Ford Treasurer and Vice-Chairman, Mary and Eddie Dobson Chairman and PAO. On the right is our Recruiting stall at Oakwood Gala in July from the left: Cliff Aldridge, Tom Beamont, Colin Ford and Peter Johnson.

Oakwood Branch Members celebrating their 90th Birthdays this year



A party was held on the 3rd August to celebrate 90 years of the RBL and four Members who are 90 this year. On the left is Joe Simons, Ken Bower, Joan Clare and Len Madle.

Text and pictures supplied by Pam Ford.

Tesco's Chesterfield Distribution Centre Open Day

It was a wet start to our Tesco Chesterfield Distribution Centre open day and Stobart Club day on the 25th September, but this didn't dampen the spirits of the visitors who queued in the rain for a mini bus tour, provided by Clowne Community Transport, around the site, enabling spotters to see all the Stobart trucks parked up, followed by a tour around the inside of the Tesco Distribution Centre. All twelve Stobart trucks in the car park, including the Mercedes F1 and carbon fibre Pirelli trucks, to go round and sit in as well as fairground rides, a bouncy slide, food, refreshments, stalls, community groups including Scouts and Parkinson's, car booters, a coffee and tombola. Through all the challenges we raised over £1200 for Alzheimer's which was an incredible achievement.

A Stobart Truck Named "Poppy 90"

The icing on the cake was the presentation of "Poppy 90" to the Royal British Legion to celebrate 90 years of the Royal British Legion and the Poppy Appeal. The naming of this truck is in recognition of the work that the amazing volunteers do and the sacrifice made by our serving and ex-serving Armed Forces personnel and their dependants, **"We Will Remember Them"**.

Driven down by Matt Ekin, one of the stars of Stobarts television programme. Stobarts pulled out all the stops to ensure she arrived on Sunday at exactly 5 pm. Supported by the production company for series three of Stobarts TV programme on Five, who filmed throughout. Princess TV "Poppy 90" was met at the entrance to our Tesco Chesterfield Distribution Centre car park by the Standard Bearer of the Royal British Legion Samuel Clarke and escorted to her position to be presented to the Legion accompanied by serving and ex-serving, young and old, members of our Armed Forces personnel and observed by their dependants.



It was an emotional moment for Carol Clarke, Welfare caseworker for the RBL who works tirelessly for those in need. Carol won the naming of the a truck for our first Open Day/Stobart Club day in June of this year, the Legion supported us by providing the tea, coffee and cakes raising funds for Alzheimers and themselves. In meetings before and during the event, Carol had mentioned that if she won first prize she would name the truck "Poppy 90", in recognition of the 90th year of the Royal British Legion and the Poppy Appeal. Carol did win, so we kept the prize back hoping to present it as a complete surprise during the two weeks leading up to the 11th of the 11th 2011. It occurred to us that the naming of this important and influential truck would be better appreciated by being launched in advance of November and at the event where it's significance would be understood from the aspects of serving and ex-service personnel and truck enthusiasts. When we realised that our second Open Day on the 25th September, where the RBL were again doing the refreshments, would be ideal, so we contacted Stobarts to see if it was possible. The Stobart family have always been supportive and when they agreed for "Poppy 90" to be allowed to come we were not surprised, what took our breath away was the total commitment they showed in ensuring "Poppy 90" arrived, when she isn't even in service yet, driven by one of their stars who is an ex-serviceman and managed to film the journey as well.

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It goes hand in hand with the drivers who stopped to have their photos taken with families during our first Open Day, even though they were not involved and were in fact racing to get their trucks on the road, leaving only the best of impressions.

Text written by Richard Haigh, Tesco Community Champion with slight amendments by the Editor.

“A huge thank you to all involved in making this “dream” become a reality. Carol Clarke is an incredibly active Member of the RBL working tirelessly to support and serve all members making a difference to those in need every day, and goes without saying that she is of course a member, through her son Sam of the extended Stobart Family. **Wayne Hallett, Tesco Depot Manager”.**

Samuel Clarke pictured below



Carol Clarke with the refreshment and cake stall is on the right.



Ride For Heroes

Last year Councillor Pat murray, a Member of Swadlincote Branch and a County Councillor, decided to hold a motor bike ride to County Hall. The first beneficiares beinf the Army Benevolent Fund.

This year to honour the 90th Anniversary of the Legion, Pat decided to donate the proceeds to the Poppy Appeal. The event was held on Sunday 9th October, with two starting points, Swadlincote and Glossop, both riding to Matlock for a reception hosted by Derbyshire County Council. A levy being charged for each bike. Before the start the Chairman of the South Derbyshire District Council, Councillor michael Stanton and his Consort Heather spoke to many of the riders present, they were accompanied by Heather Wheeler MP and Derbyshire RBL County Vice-Chairman Stuart Allen.

Swadlincote had a stand and did a brisk trade in memorabilia. They also recruited several new members. Contacts were also made with regard to non-members holding fundraising events for the Poppy Appeal.

Approximately two hundred bikes, their riders and in many cases pillion passengers assembled at Swadlincote, not just from the County but surrounding Counties as well. In addition to good representation from the Rider's Branch many other motorbike clubs were represented. We see such a good turnout at these events, that we were able to greet many as old friends.

The SDDC Chairman's Consort Heather Stanton was given a quick trip around the town as a pillion passenger before the start. The Glossop ride did not go according to plan, due to a rock fall on Snake Pass, however some Ten riders did manage to make it. All riders were greeted at Matlock by our Community Fundraiser Chritine Selden and the Deputy Chairman of the County Council, Councillor Chris Jackson, who is President of the Crich Branch.

It is understood that a sum of £1020 has been raised for the Poppy Appeal, the cheque will be presented at a later date. Our grateful thanks must be extended to Pat Murray for his efforts in organising this event and raising such a sum for the Appeal.

Derbyshire RBL County Vice-Chairman Stuart Allen

Chatsworth Country Fair 2011

Once again The Country Fair held in the superb grounds of the Chatsworth Estate was a roaring success for Derbyshire Royal British Legion, the three day event culminated in the draw for the 90th Anniversary Raffle. This drew to a close eighteen months of dedication and hard work by the anniversary committee.

The recruiting team of Yvonne Robinson, Dilys Elliker and Stuart Allen was boosted by County Committee Members, Brian Brown, Ron Elliker, John Price and Colin Picken, assisted by our County Fundraiser Christine Selden with Pat Price and Janet Picken. Grateful thanks to all for giving so freely of their time over the three days it is very much appreciated.

On the Friday we were joined by our man with the van, or Poppy Calls as it once was. The number of people that were unaware that we offer the service was surprising to say the least, so he could just find himself a little busy over the ensuing months. The Saturday found us in the company of Rowland from the Rider's Branch as always a popular draw with the crowds gathered round his machine. Both young and old alike had to have a photo call on the machine itself.



Biker Rowland with biker enthusiast Pat Rice
Photo © John Price



Yvonne Robinson, Dilys Elliker, Lady Dannett,
Pat Price and Joclyen Lewis. Photo © John Price



Lord and Lady Dannett take
a breather. Photo © Pat Price

The team were able to spend a little time seeing the many stands and events for which Chatsworth is so well known. The highlight for many was the superb display by the Red Arrows which also proved to be very emotional, being the first display since the tragic accident at Bournemouth. Many of us were able to sign the book of condolence in the Red Arrows tent.

As usual the team dealt with many queries, ranging from compensation for injured serviceman to house visits. In each case we were able to help the inquirer. Poppy helpers, case workers and new members were all recruited, we dealt with people from all over the Country. Though this year did see a large number of queries from the Sheffield area. The bucket collection added a considerable sum to the Marquee Fund, Draw tickets sold very well as did the Poppy Shop. The Poppy Wreath Brooch and the Buckley Brooch both sold out on the first day of the show. The main event for us the 90th Anniversary Draw took place on Sunday afternoon, the County Vice-Chairman welcomed Lord and Lady Dannett on behalf of the County, he then presented Lord Dannett with a pair of Derbyshire RBL cufflinks. His lordship said he would wear them at the Norfolk concert. Her ladyship was presented with a poppy wreath brooch, which she immediately put on. Before the draw they spent some time talking to the team, also two members of the Mercian Regiment and Warrant Officer Davies of the Royal Navy. The Deputy Chairman of the County Council was also introduced. The team were joined for the draw by the County Padre, The Rev. Dr. Joclyen Lewis and her husband George, they both spent sometime chatting to our guests.



County Fundraiser Christine Selden watches as
a visitor donates. Photo © Pat Price

The General is Patron of Norfolk County and Lady Philippa the President of the County Woman's Section. Now the Constable of the Tower of London, his Lordship invited the County Vice-Chairman to take a party to the Tower to see the Ceremony of the Keys sometime next year.

**Text by Stuart Allen,
Derbyshire RBL County Vice-Chairman**

Commemorating The Fallen of Two World Wars So They Will Not Be Forgotten

We all know of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, but how many of us really know of the work they do and why they were formed in the first place. In 2012 they celebrate their 95th Anniversary. In this article I am going to tell you a bit about them and the important work they do so the names of the fallen of two world wars will not be forgotten.

Formation

Just one man started it all; Fabian Ware at 45 was too old to be in the Army and fight on the frontline. So he volunteered for the British Red Cross in 1914. He became a commander of a mobile unit that went to the frontline to help with the wounded. He was so upset at the sheer scale of the loss of men, Ware was determined that the final resting place of the casualties would not be lost forever. He set up a system where the Mobile Unit could record and care for all the graves they could find.

By 1915 their work was given official recognition by the War Office. Ware's Mobile Unit was relieved of their Red Cross duties and was incorporated into the British Army as a Graves Registration Commission.

Official Recognition

Ware was anxious that the spirit of the Imperial cooperation evident in the war itself was reflected in the work of the Commission. Working with the Prince of Wales, he submitted a memorandum to the Imperial War Conference. In May 1917 the Imperial War Graves Commission was established by Royal Charter, with the Prince of Wales serving as President and Ware as Vice-Chairman.

1918 – The work starts in earnest

Once land for cemeteries and memorials had been guaranteed, the enormous task of recording the details of the dead could begin. By 1918 some 587,000 graves had been identified and a further 559,000 casualties were registered as having no known grave.

Establishing principles

The architectural and horticultural work began once the administration tasks were underway. From the start Ware and the Commission sought perfection and permanence for the physical forms of commemoration. Rudyard Kipling was employed as literary advisor and three most eminent architects of the day: Sir Edwin Lutyens, Sir Herbert Baker and Sir Reginald Blomfield were chosen to begin the work of designing and construction of the cemeteries and memorials. The last cemetery of the Great War was completed in 1938. Frederic Kenyon the Director of the British Museum was asked to bring the differing approaches of the principal architects together. His report was presented to the Commission in November 1918, articulated the principles that the CWGC still abide by today.

The Principles are:

- Each of the dead should be commemorated by name on the headstone.
- Headstones and memorials should be permanent.
- Headstones should be uniform.
- There should be no distinction made on account of military or civil rank, race or creed.

The CWGC

The Imperial War Graves Commission was renamed the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in 1960. The CWGC only pays tribute to the 1,700,000 men and women of the Commonwealth forces who died in the two world wars or causes attributable to war service.

The War years are considered to be for this purpose as:

- Great War – 4th August to 31st August 1921
- World War Two – 3rd September 1939 to 31 December 1947

Compiled by **John P. Irwin** - To be continued.

The Derbyshire Legion

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