

## **Brixham Battery Heritage Group**

Reg. Charity No. 1082171

### **December 2008 Newsletter**

Welcome to the latest BBHG newsletter.

It is with regret that I have to announce the passing of one of our founder members Mr Harry Moores. Harry was always full of energy getting stuck in whenever there was a job to be done. His ability to engage with the public meant that no one could pass the Heritage Centre without being politely encouraged to come in and see the displays and learn about the history of the Battery. He shall be missed by all who knew him. Our condolences go to his family.

2008 has been a bumper year for visitors with over 7,000 signatures in the Centre guest book. Having been through the comments all are complementary, a credit to all members and supporters of the group.

Our outreach team have been very busy this season with an increasing number of visits to schools, colleges and various societies in Devon.

The Living History Section have represented the group at various events including winning 3rd prize at the Stoke Fleming Carnival and putting on a fine display at the Buckfastleigh Military Show.

May's Land Army Reunion was an outstanding success with over 120 veterans attending. Thanks to the Riviera Singers for providing the afternoon's entertainment.

Also up is the number of school groups that have visited the Battery this year, a trend that should continue now that we have improved facilities on site.

Ground work continues in Battery Gardens with help from the Community Service Team, Torquay. The team have painted out offensive graffiti in the emplacements and have cleared pathways of undergrowth.

Our fund raising coffee mornings at the Community Methodist Hall, Fore Street, Brixham have been a great success, thanks to all the helpers and supporters. November's netted £150.

Outdoor events were largely 'rained off' due to the extremely bad summer, what summer I hear you say! Having said that the Devon 'Remote Control' military model tank event held in Battery Gardens in June proved to be a success as it did not rain on that particular Sunday! The Devon RC club will hopefully return next year.

Our play this year was 'Haig of Bemersyde' the life of a soldier. Thanks to actor and group member Nick Lucas who played Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig to a spell bound audience in Brixham Methodist Community Hall.

Our latest bid for a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund proved to be unsuccessful we will therefore be commencing the 'War Shelter Project' using monies raised from donations. The project aims to open the 'bricked up' shelter for exhibition.

In November Brixham's Chamber of Commerce kindly donated £250 towards the project.

Group member and film maker Ashley Wing completed a new film 'short' entitled 'Poppies' as part of this years Remembrance Events. His film, made with assistance from the group can be seen on the internet.

Display items and memorabilia continue to come in. Thanks to all who contribute.

BBC Radio Devon have been recording interviews with group member and veteran Mr Fred Gardner. Fred together with his brother's wartime service history can be seen in a new display in the centre.

Winter opening times are as follows Monday and Friday 2pm - 4pm and some Sundays (telephone 01803 852449 to find out more).

Entry is Free!!

Group membership remains at £5.00 adult. Associate/Child £ 2.00.

For more information phone us on 01803 852449 email [hiightres@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:hiightres@tiscali.co.uk)

Phil Trayhorn  
Chair  
BBHG