Actions taken Conference
The Board of Trustees have published their responses to the motions at conference – It has been sent to all Branches by email. If it has been misplaced please email the MSO for another copy

Election of County Chairman
The election of County Chairman takes place every 3 years. 2018 is an election year and nominations are sought from branches. The nomination form has been emailed to Branch Chairmen and Secretaries.
Lynda Atkins the Current Chairman is willing to be nominated for a further term.

Consolidated Payments
Branches can continue to make consolidated payments for members who pay the branch in cash for their membership or renewal.
The form was included with the branch Subscription request. The form must be used when paying fees in bulk by cheque or bank transfer and please read carefully the ‘Notes for Completion on page 2 of the form. Branches can start using this form immediately.

County Handbook
The County Handbook has been sent to all branches. Additional copies can be sent if required. Please ensure that the details in the handbook are only utilised in connection with Legion business

Festival of Remembrance
The County was allocated 26 tickets to the Festival of Remembrance while there were 30 applications. It is hoped that an additional 4 tickets can be made available by an adjacent county but they will not be able to confirm this till late August.
All those individuals successful in their bid will be emailed and requested to send the £10 per ticket directly to the MSO

Ordering Membership forms and leaflets
Secretaries and Membership Secretaries can order Membership forms (MS4) and other leaflets directly from the Poppy Warehouse by emailing poppymembership@britishlegion.org.uk
A new leaflet explaining what the Armed Forces Covenant can do for veterans has been published. It includes local and national addresses of useful organisations.

It will be available to branches on request and local libraries.

Headley Court Charity

The Headley Court Charity was established in 1940 and in 1947 decided to acquire the estate at Headley Court in Surrey for the purpose of providing a facility for the medical rehabilitation of pilots and aircrew of the Royal Air Force. The facility opened in 1949 and the objects of the charity have since expanded to provide medical rehabilitation for all members of the armed forces.

In 2018, the clinical facility will move to a new purpose built facility at Stanford Hall in the East Midlands and the MOD will vacate Headley Court. In recognition of the significant role that Headley Court has played in the lives of so many servicemen and women over almost 70 years, the Royal British Legion has kindly agreed that a Headley Court Charity contingent of 70 veterans drawn from former patients and staff should form part of the Remembrance Parade for 2017.

Funding Branch Support for GP90

To clarify and make transparent the process of support for enabling the less wealthy and deserving branches to attend GP90 the following procedure will be introduced,

- Wealthy branches who wish to support less well-off branches should forward donations from their General Funds to their relevant County.

- Branches should include these payments in the ‘Other Payments’ section of the branch return as a GP90 payment. LOMAS branches have a dedicated line in the analysis list named “GP90 – Great Pilgrimage”.

- Counties/Districts are to set up and record these transactions within LOMAS as an earmarked fund entitled “GP90”.

- The County/District Committees will address the requirement of their own deserving branches first using their own criteria. The County/District will pay the £1000 on behalf of the receiving branch directly to the booking system.

- Excess money held by Counties/Districts is then to be forwarded to a central fund along with the relevant branch details etc.

- County/Districts with insufficient funds of their own to support their own branches will then be able to bid for funds from this central fund. This fund will be managed by a working group consisting of a Membership Council representative (Chair) and 5 representatives from the contributing branches with staff support. It will be an electronic committee that approve these grants and no travel is anticipated. These funds will be allocated directly to the booking system once the grant has been made.

- The deadline for applications to this fund will be 1st March 2018 with the last date for approval 22th March 2018.
On completion, a report will be made by this committee showing all donations, all grants and all Funds remaining. All unused funds will be returned to the originating branch.

**Important Note**

Branches are reminded that funds derived from the sale of a BPT property or from rental income from a BPT property are restricted funds and cannot be used for this purpose.

**Poppy Appeal Seminars**

Mark Garwood would like to invite members of your branch to attend a Poppy Appeal thank you seminar at one of 3 locations around the county.

- The ex-servicemen's club in Bicester on **Wednesday 13th September**
- Marston Royal British Legion club on **Thursday 21st September**
- Benson Village hall on **Wednesday 27th September**

All starting at 10:30.

The seminar is to say “thank you” to all the volunteer PAOs and collectors for their continued efforts and support as well as provide new information and plans for the Poppy Appeal 2017 and how the funds raised will be used for the benefit of those who we help.

The seminars will be joined by two beneficiaries who will tell their stories of how they have benefited from poppy appeal money their stories are well worth listening to.

It will offer the chance to meet the appeal volunteers and would be great to see you there on the day.

The agenda will be made available to you on your arrival.

Please accept Mark’s thanks for all your hard work for the appeal, which last year saw a fantastic amount of money raised, it is greatly appreciated and it is hoped that you will be able to come long as the final 2016 Poppy Appeal total will be revealed...

To help with the planning of the event, please let Mark know you are attending

07750252215

Mgarwood@britishlegion.org.uk

**Dates for Turning of Pages**

The Turning of Pages ceremony will take place on the following Saturdays at 11am. Any one is welcome to attend (please be at Christ Church by 10.30).

Volunteers to take part and recite the Exhortation and Kohima Epitaph as part of the ceremony should contact the Andrew Bowes

The dates for 2017 are also on the County Website together with the name of the member who has volunteered to take part.

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D Day War Diaries

James Robertshaw, a member of the Royal British Legion branch in Ramsden, has been writing books on the D Day landings. This project has taken him three years and he has just finished the final book of seven.

The books contain maps, current and old photographs, German Fortification, units and citations, operations Army, Navy and Airforce, to overcome the fortifications and free Europe from German occupation and slavery.

The books can be purchased via the website [www.dday-wardiaries.co.uk](http://www.dday-wardiaries.co.uk)

Surveys

2 surveys have recently been sent out to Branches by email.

These were

- Remembrance Activity
- Attendance at GP90

If your branch has not already replied please do so that we may understand your intentions and activities.

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Paul Beaver
The Spitfire in Oxfordshire
Wednesday 13th September 2017. 7.00pm - 8.30pm.
Doors open 6.45pm.
Tickets: £10. Refreshments available.

Historian and broadcaster Paul Beaver will tell the story of the most famous aircraft in British aviation history, the people who built and flew the plane and its links with Oxfordshire airfields.

The Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum
Park Street, Woodstock, Oxfordshire, OX20 1SN
Booking essential [www.sofo.org.uk](http://www.sofo.org.uk) 01993 810 211

Standard Bearer Training

Mark Garwood the County Parade Marshal has arranged a standard bearing training event
Ascott under Wychwood Tiddy Hall for Sunday 17th September start time 1000.

The Workshop will refresh current standard bearers in correct ceremonial procedures, and is a chance for new standard bearers to learn the basics of standard bearing.

- Introduction to Standard Bearing.
- Carrying RBL Standard at Remembrance
- Opening/closing of Branch meeting.
- Charging of County/Branch Standard Bearer
- Dedication of new Standards/ laying up of old County/District/Branch Standards
- General Care of Standards
- Introduction to Standard Bearers Competitions.

All refreshments will be provided at no cost to attendees.

07750252215
Mgarwood@britishlegion.org.uk

Events

If you have an event that you would like advertised in the newsletter or emailed to branches please email Oxfordshire.MSO@RBL.Community

Kidlington Band Concert

The Kidlington Concert Brass Band are holding a Poppy Appeal Concert on behalf of the Royal British Legion, Kidlington Branch.

On Remembrance Sunday the 12th November 2017, at the Exeter Hall ,Kidlington, starting at 7.30pm

Tickets can be obtained from Stan White. 01865 373235 or on the door, Cost £8 pounds.
CHINNOR SILVER BAND
In association with the Benson And Ewelme Branch RBL

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION CONCERT
In aid of the 2017 Poppy Appeal

Sunday 5th November 2017
In the Benson Parish Hall
Doors open 7PM

Tickets £5 available from Pete Eldridge
Tel: 01491824508, Email: pete@eldridgeweb.co.uk
Limited tickets available on the night

Bar available when doors open and during interval.
Raffle in aid of Poppy Appeal

Heroes Remembered
William Boynton Butler VC
(20 November 1894 – 25 March 1972)

William Butler was 22 years old, and a private in the 17th Battalion, The West Yorkshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's Own), British Army, attached to 106th Trench Mortar Battery.

On 6 August 1917 east of Lempire, William Butler was in charge of a Stokes Mortar in trenches which were being heavily shelled. Suddenly one of the fly-off levers of a Stokes shell came off and fired the shell in the emplacement.

Private Butler picked up the shell and jumped to the entrance of the emplacement, which at that moment a party of infantry were passing. He shouted to them to hurry past as the shell was going off, and turning round, placed himself between the party of men and the live shell and so held it till they were out of danger.

He then threw the shell on to the parados, and took cover in the bottom of the trench. The shell exploded almost on leaving his hand, greatly damaging the trench. By extreme good luck Private Butler was contused only. Undoubtedly his great presence of mind and disregard of his own life saved the lives of the officer and men in the emplacement and the party which was passing at the time.

Does your branch have an item they wish to be included in the County Circular?
Contact the Membership Support Officer 19-21 High Street Aylesbury HP20 1SH
abowes@britishlegion.org.uk 03330114489
Contact Centre 0808 802 8080