

We will remember them

To all whom we have lost this month. Our sincere condolences to family and friends. We remember Mike Morley of Brockenhurst Branch who died on Good Friday. He was branch treasurer for 18 years and retired last year. He served as a national serviceman from 1956 to 1958 in the Royal Signals.



Our mission is to safeguard the welfare, interests, and memory of those who are serving or who have served in the Armed Forces



The Arboretum is changing it's name

From September 2026 the National Memorial Arboretum is going to be renamed as the Royal British Legion National Remembrance Gardens. The name change is in keeping with the RBL's vision to recognise, remember, and support the Armed Forces community. It reflects the important role that is at the centre of Remembrance. The centre opened to the public 25 years ago and receives more than 300,000 visitors every year. The intention is to bring more people together to reflect, learn and remember service and sacrifice. The RBL tries to encourage all to take an active part in Remembrance. The Arboretum's founder is Commander (Rtd) David Childs CBE. It has become the nation's focus on remembrance and is supported by employees, volunteers, supporters and communities. DW



The Women's Land Army

When the majority of men were called to do duty in the armed forces farm workers were needed to work on the land to produce food and tend livestock. A recruiting campaign was launched for women to join the Women's Land Army and do this vital work. By 1943 there were approximately 80,000 women serving. They came from all walks of life and did a variety of tasks. These included digging ditches, cutting hedges, muck-spreading, ploughing, planting, harvesting fruit and crops, haymaking, threshing and more.

The women were issued a uniform of fawn coloured shirts, corduroy breeches, a brown felt hat (on which was worn a badge as shown) as well as a pair of black rubber Wellington boots. Some women provided their own leather boots as an alternative. They were also provided with a bottle green jersey

As the war progressed there was a general shortage of uniform items and when the black Wellington boots

were damaged they were sent off to the Dunlop Rubber Company to be repaired and returned to their owners.

The organisation produced their own magazine called The Land Girl. This magazine provided handy tips on the work and on how to maintain their uniforms. One of the more "exciting" jobs some of the women had was rat catching! On occasion the odd rat ran up open trouser legs so the women began to tie string around their ankles to secure the trouser legs. This handy tip was provided by a contributor to the magazine! DW



May 1964. Palestine Liberation Organisation formed.
25 May 1969. Sudan army coup overthrows the government.
15 May 1974 PLO capture an Israeli school at Ma'alot. They kill 25 and wound many others.
31 May 1991. Three UDR soldiers killed and thirteen wounded when car-bomb hits barracks in Northern Ireland.
May 2011. End of Op Telic



Remembering all who served.

19th March 2003. Coalition forces launch an air attack at targets in Iraq including Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.
20th March 2003. US ground forces (including 3 Sqn 7th Cav Regt of US 3rd Div and 1st US Marine Expeditionary Force advance into Iraq. Combined British air and ground assault capture Iraq Faw Peninsula and US Marines advance on the port of Umm Qasr. Iraq launched 10 missiles into Kuwait of which two were intercepted by Patriot missiles. Over 60 cruise missiles were launched against targets in and around Baghdad. The next day further air attacks were launched against Baghdad hitting the Republican Palace complex on the Tigris River and on Tikrit, (ancestral home of Saddam Hussein) and Mosul and Kirkuk. Iraq's 51st Army Division deserted their positions on Iraq's southern border.

22nd March 2003. Coalition troops advanced 150 miles into Iraqi territory and crossed the Euphrates River using existing bridges. Air strikes were continued (1,500 sorties / 800). On 23rd March Iraqi troops ambushed US Marines in Nasiriya while Coalition air assaults continued on Iraqi positions on route to Baghdad.

25th March 2003. Coalition forces conduct an operation killing approximately 150 Iraqis in the Euphrates Valley east of Najaf. British troops repelled a counterattack by Iraqi force southeast of Basra. 20 armoured vehicles were destroyed in the action. Coalition deaths in the Iraq war thus far were 43. On the next day US 173rd Airborne Bde parachuted into a Kurdish-controlled area to secure an airfield to airlift coalition forces (including armour), as well as humanitarian supplies.

27th March 2003. British forces near Basra were attacked by the Iraqis. Thousands of civilians flee Basra. Three US Marine infantry battalions occupy the northern and southern parts of Nasiriya and engage Iraqi forces on either side of the Euphrates River at Nasiriya the next day.

30th March 2003. US air strikes against Republican Guard and Iraqi forces south of Baghdad and on 1st April US forces start major ground offensive against Medina and Baghdad Republican Guard divisions south of Baghdad. US Marines attack targets in Nasiriya. The US 4th Infantry Division arrives in Kuwait City.

2nd April 2003. US 3rd Infantry Division engaged Republican Guard near Karbala. 1st Marine Expeditionary Force attacked Republican Guard's Baghdad Division, capturing a bridge and crossed the Tigris River. The next day Coalition forces launch assault on Saddam International Airport southwest of Baghdad. 3rd US Infantry Division advance through the Karbala Gap. 1st Bn US 7th Marines secured two positions on the outskirts of Kut on the Tigris River 40 miles south of Baghdad. 101st US Airborne Division took control of Najaf. 82nd US Abn Div attack targets north of city of Samawa. British forces bombard Iraqi forces around Basra and Zubayr.

4th April 2003. US forces hold Baghdad airport. 2,500 Iraqi soldiers surrender. Kurdish forces capture Khazar in northern Iraq and the next day US V Corps and 1st Marine Expeditionary Force advance into central Baghdad. Within two days they control the city. British forces occupy Basra.

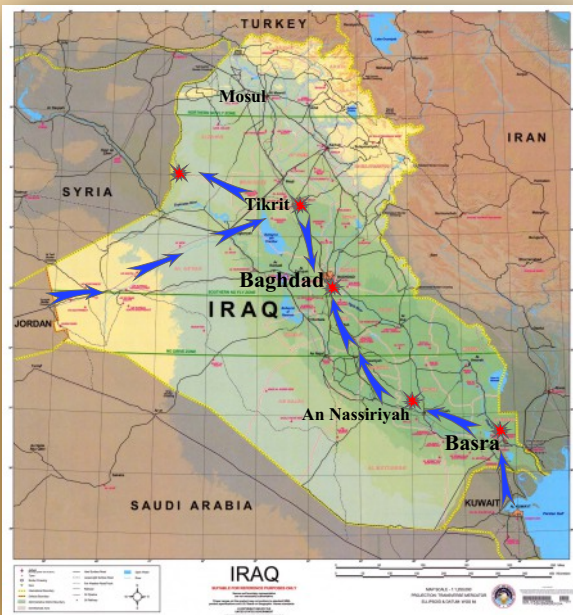
8th April 2003. US 101st Airborne Division engage Iraqi forces at Hillah, 50 miles south of Baghdad. US Special Forces deploy to seize a strategic highway between Mosul and Kirkuk. The next day Iraqi forces reinforce defences at Tikrit, the birthplace of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. The U.S. Army airlift forces into northern Iraq to reinforce 173rd US Airborne Brigade.

10th April 2003. Elements of the 173rd US Airborne Brigade enter Tikrit after Kurdish forces capture the city.

11th April 2003. Coalition forces encounter Iraqi resistance near the Syrian border. A cease-fire was signed by the commander of the Iraqi army's 5th Corps in Mosul with US Special Forces.

12th April 2003. Elements of the US 1st Marine Expeditionary Force deploy to Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit. The next day they attacked 2,500 Iraqi fighters in sporadic fighting.

1st May 2003. President Bush states that major combat operations in Iraq have ended. (43 days). Occupation of Iraq by coalition forces continues. There are sporadic incidents. On 14th December 2003 Saddam Hussein is captured. DW



Remembering a Hampshire veteran

George Cardew was born on the 3rd January 1861 at Kingsclere. He was the elder son of Reverent George Cardew of St Minver East Liss and went to Haileybury College. He initially served in an unknown militia unit and then joined the regular army with a commission as a lieutenant in the 8th Hussars on 9th August 1882. He was promoted to Captain on the 7th July 1886. He was appointed as Deputy Assistant Commissary-General, Commisariat and Transport Corps on 21st October 1887 and served in this post until 10th December 1888.

On the 1st April 1889 he was transferred to the Army Service Corps being promoted to Major on 17th April of the same year. He was deployed to South Africa in 1900 and as a Staff Officer and participated in the Anglo Boer War until its end in 1902. He was deployed on operations in the Orange Free State including the battle at Vet River (5 - 6 May 1900), the battle at Zand River. In May and June he was deployed to the Transvaal as the British forces progressed northwards. During this time he saw action at Johannesburg, Pretoria and the Battle of Diamond Hill. Thereafter he redeployed to the Orange Free State and was at the battle of Wittebergen in July 1900. From February to March 1900. He continued to serve in the Cape Colony (March 1900), Transvaal (December 1900), and moved back to the Orange Free State and finally returned to the Transvaal by the end of the war in 1902.

Major Cardew was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (London Gazette 26th June 1902) in recognition of services during the operations in South Africa.

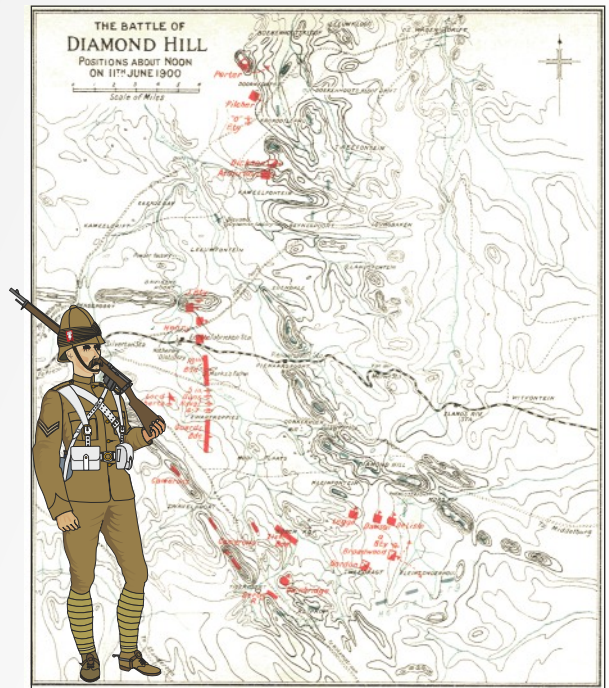
Major Cardew received his DSO while under command of the GOC Straits Settlements Brigadier General Dorward on 17th April 1903. He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel on 1st November 1905. In 1908 he was promoted to Brevet Colonel and retired on 13th February 1911.

Colonel Cardew rejoined the army in 1914 and was appointed as AQMG Eastern Army Labour Corps when he was transferred in February 1917 and sent to France with the British Expeditionary Force. He was mentioned in dispatches for valuable services. At the end of the war he was awarded the CBE. Colonel Cardew died on 22nd January 1949. DW



Colonel Cardew's medals. The Queen's South Africa medal has four battle participation bars. They are Wittebergen, Diamond Hill, Johannesburg and Cape Colony.

THE BATTLE AT DIAMOND HILL 11 - 12 JUNE 1900



Directly after the end of the First World War veterans of that conflict formed a number of veterans organisations to foster comradeship and mutual help. Three such organisations were the Comrades of the Great War, the National Association of Discharged Sailors and Soldiers and the National Federation of Discharged and Demobilized Sailors and Soldiers. The Officers Association was also formed at this time. The British Legion was founded in 1921 when the three organisations merged into one and served as a voice for the ex-service community. The fundraising department of the Officers' Association was also incorporated.

Other veterans organisations included the British Empire Service League (BESL) that became the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League, the Old Comrades Association and the Memorable Order of Tin Hats (MOTHs). The BESL had branches in all of the countries of the Empire including Great Britain.

The BESL was founded in 1921 by Field Marshal Haig, Field Marshal Smuts and Field Marshal Lukin in Cape Town. Some see it as the forefather of all of the Allied veterans organisations.

Field Marshal (The 1st Earl) Haig was the British commander at the Battle of the Somme and Passchendaele and was a founder of the British Legion in 1921. Field Marshal Haig served as the president of the British Legion until his death in 1928. A Royal Charter was granted to the British Legion in 1925, thus allowing the title of Royal British Legion. During the Second World War the RBL was active in civil defence, providing officers for the Home Guard. After the end of the war membership of the RBL increased rapidly to 3 million veterans by 1950. By 2003 this number had dwindled to half a million in 2003.

The Royal British Legion Women's Section (RBLWS) was also founded in 1921. It was an independent organisation for 96 years, with its own branches, standards and standard bearers, county branches, income and expenditure, national central committee, and annual conference. This changed in December 2015. A decision was made to integrate the RBLWS. This was completed by October 2016, and resulted in protests and great unhappiness. The RBLWS continued to exist as a branch of the RBL and their chairman has a seat on the RBL Board of Trustees.DW



National Association of Discharged Soldiers and Sailors. Raised in 1917



Comrades of the Great War. Raised in 1918



Old Comrades Association. Raised by individual regiments at different times. The first was raised directly after the First World War.



British Empire Service League. South Africa. Raised in 1921



British Empire Service League. Rhodesia. Raised in 1921



South African Legion. 1920s - 1950s pattern badge.



Memorable Order of the Tin Hat. Raised in 1927 by Australian born Charles Evendon.



British Legion. Raised in 1921. Pattern worn up to 1972.



Royal British Legion. A Royal Charter was granted in 1925 allowing the title Royal to be used. 1972 pattern badge.



Royal British Legion. 1980s pattern badge.



Royal British Legion. 2000s pattern badge.



Royal British Legion of Scotland. 2000s pattern badge.



Royal British Legion of Malta. 2000s pattern badge.



British Legion. Women's Section. Pattern worn up to 1972.



Royal British Legion. Women's Section. Worn 1972 - 1980s.



Royal British Legion. Women's Section. Worn 1972 - to date.

We want eight and we won't wait!

Admiral Sir John Fisher was appointed First Sea Lord on 2nd October 1904 and immediately set about modernising the Royal Navy. One of his aims was development of fast all big-gun battleships. The first of these was laid down on 2nd October 1905 and commissioned as HMS Dreadnought on 2nd December 1906.



HMS Dreadnought 1906

Dreadnought proved revolutionary and rendered all other battleships obsolete overnight, triggering a new arms race between the major naval powers.

Although already the largest navy in the world by far, the Royal Navy now faced the challenge of building Dreadnoughts (a term that now embodied all modern battleships and battlecruisers) faster and in greater numbers than her peer adversaries. With the Anglo-German arms race now in full swing and the British government trying to moderate expenditure (as ever), it was decided to build just 6 Dreadnoughts. The British public mobilised to demand at least 8 with the slogan "We want eight and we won't wait!" By the outbreak of the Great War in 1914, the Royal Navy could field some 30 of these behemoths which enabled control of the North Sea and helped enforce a maritime blockade that would ultimately lead to victory. HMS Glasgow - Type 26 Roll on 120 years and a more defence conscious Britain should to be making similar noises. Failure by successive governments to order replacement frigates or enough destroyers has left the fleet with a diminishing force of currently 7 Type 23 frigates remaining from a class of 16. All are over 20 years old, having been designed to last 18 years, and are unlikely to survive until their replacements are commissioned. Add to these 6 air-defence (Type 45) destroyers, already reduced from an initial requirement for 12 - to replace 14 Type 42s (2 were sunk in 1982). Poor design of the Type 45 has resulted in protracted and expensive improvements to the ships' electrical generation capacity. The Type 45s will need replacing by 2038. The Type 23 frigates will eventually be replaced by 8 Type 26 anti-submarine frigates and 5 Type 31 general purpose frigates, but we'll have to wait until the middle of the next decade before the total escort force returns even to 19. By comparison, whereas it took 2½ years from conception to commissioning for HMS Dreadnought in 1906, it will have taken 35 years to commission the first Type 26 frigate.

In a recent rant, President Trump called the Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carriers toys. Admittedly they are smaller and less capable than a USN strike carrier and would have been better with catapult launch/arrested recovery (CATOBAR) which would have allowed operation of a wider range of aircraft. Although without the range and payload of the

F35C (CATOBAR variant), the F35B (Short Take Off Vertical Landing (STOVL) is still a formidable aircraft and, with a full air group embarked (36), our carriers can pack a powerful punch. Unfortunately, the F35Bs currently represent ⅓ of the RAF's combat aircraft and making enough available for carrier operations is an ongoing challenge. More are being procured but the RAF also hope to obtain 12 F35As (land-based variants) that can be also be used to deploy tactical nuclear weapons.

Based on the 'rule of thirds' (⅓ in refit; ⅓ in routine maintenance and preparing for or returning from operations; and ⅓ operational), even 19 escorts will give the Royal Navy only 2 Type 45s, up to 3 Type 26s and maybe 2 Type 31s ready for immediate operations. To form a Carrier Strike Group, a Queen Elizabeth Class aircraft carrier requires at least 2 destroyers and 2 ASW frigates (currently we rely on NATO allies) plus an attack submarine and logistics support. These ships will require crews, but there's an aspiration to augment their fighting power with uncrewed platforms. But, just in terms of crewed escorts, "We need 25 just to survive". Tell your MP or chain yourselves to the railings outside Parliament armed with this slogan! Silver Jubilee Fleet Review 1977 From a peak of some 2,000 assorted vessels and nearly a million men and women in 1945, the Royal Navy has been in steady decline. Bankrupted by two world wars, Britain was faced with the task of dismantling an empire that once ruled a quarter of the world and developing armed forces more appropriate to a small though influential island off the coast of mainland Europe. Although worldwide commercial interests and remaining overseas obligations/treaties still favoured a maritime strategy, the need for ground and air forces to garrison a defeated Germany and counter the emerging threat from the USSR remained. The



HMS Glasgow Type 26

British Army of the Rhine (BAOR) – a term first conceived in 1919 – was based in Germany and formed the Northern Army Group after NATO's formation in 1949. This aimed to mount an armoured corps (some 50,000 strong) with supporting air forces. This continued until the dismantling of the Soviet Union in 1990 which eventually led to the gradual withdrawal of British forces based in mainland Europe. This precipitated a reduction in the size of the British Army which, although delayed by expeditionary deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan, has now reach its nadir of about 70,000 personnel. The RAF has fared no better and now has about 150 combat aircraft compared with about 800 in the 1990s.

A key decision that hastened a reduction in size and capability of the Royal Navy was made in the 1966 Defence White Paper, principally to cancel procurement of 4 large,

fixed wing aircraft carriers and withdraw British forces from 'East of Suez'. This left the Royal Navy with three large aircraft carriers of World War II vintage converted to operate modern fast jets and four light fleet carriers, two of which were converted to commando ships. The last fixed wing carrier (HMS Ark Royal) paid off in 1978 and the Royal Navy focussed on providing anti-submarine forces to support the USN Striking Fleet in the North Atlantic. Fortuitously the idea for building three 'through-deck cruisers' was conceived to operate Sea King ASW helicopters and, eventually, a small number of Short Take Off and Vertical Landing (STOVL) Sea Harriers



Silver Jubilee Fleet Review 1977

were ordered for air defence. To help cover the gap while the three Invincible class 'through deck cruisers' (aka aircraft carriers!) were under construction, the light fleet carriers HMS Hermes and HMS Bulwark (ex-commando ship) were converted to fulfil the role with Hermes also able to operate Sea Harriers. At about the same time it was resolved to maintain an escort force of about 60 destroyers and frigates. Having blamed Wilson's Labour government for loss of the four aircraft carriers, the Conservative's 1981 Defence White Paper (aka the Nott Review) proposed selling HMS Invincible to Australia, scrapping or selling remaining amphibious ships, reducing the number of escorts to about 55 and refocussing the fleet offensive capability on attack submarines. Crucially, the ice patrol vessel HMS Endurance was also to be withdrawn from service which may have been a catalyst for the Argentine Junta to invade South Georgia and the Falkland Islands in 1982. Despite being totally unprepared, the Royal Navy was able to assemble a task force within 48 hours. This comprised the carriers HMS Invincible - returning to Portsmouth from the South Atlantic 1982



HMS Invincible returning to Portsmouth from the South Atlantic 1982

Hermes and HMS Invincible with as many Sea Harriers and RAF Harrier GR3s as could be mustered; 2 assault ships and 6 Landing Ships Logistics; 23

destroyers and frigates; 6 nuclear and 2 conventional submarines; 171 naval aircraft; 3 Commando Brigade Royal Marines – 3 Commandos plus 2 Parachute battalions - and 5 Infantry Brigade, forming a light division; some 60 auxiliaries and support vessels, many taken up from trade. By any standards, it was a remarkable feat of arms conducted 8,000 nautical miles from UK. Significantly, the Royal Navy was also able to prepare a smaller relief task force which included another aircraft carrier – HMS Illustrious straight from the builder's yard.

The Falklands War delayed some of Nott's cuts, but it did not take long for the government to start eroding fighting

strength again, and 60 escorts quickly became 'About 50'. Following the end of the Cold War, the so-called 'peace dividend' was used as an excuse for further cuts, and by the end of the millennium it was 'About 30'; now it's 'About 13'. After brief regeneration, there are now no dedicated amphibious ships and, with only 5 attack submarines (SSNs), we're struggling to keep just one operational. Remarkably, the Royal Navy still manages to maintain the Continuous At Sea Deterrent (CASD) with one Trident ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) at sea but maintenance issues with the remaining 3 boats have resulted in some 6-months as opposed to 3-months patrols. It is planned to replace the 4 Vanguard class

SSBNs with the Dreadnought class by the early 2030s while completing further Astute class SSNs to bring their total number to 7. We need 4 SSBNs to maintain CASD but we need at least 12 SSNs to ensure 3 can be at sea at any one time. Hopefully, AUKUS will prove to be our salvation, but we are likely to be constrained by the capacity of our single submarine building yard at Barrow.

The UK armed forces have reached their nadir when Europe and NATO face the biggest threat since the Cold War, and at



Future uncrewed surface combatant?

a time when USA's commitment can no longer be assumed. The RN is struggling with insufficient escorts, support vessels and attack submarines; the British Army would struggle to field and sustain a single armoured brigade; the RAF is dangerously short of combat aircraft, impacting upon providing sufficient F35Bs for the aircraft carriers; and there's virtually no anti-missile defence to protect UK.

Unsurprisingly, recruitment and retention of people suffer for a variety of complex reasons. Pay is not normally a major issue but poor accommodation and facilities, and erosion of conditions of service are certainly factors. Outdated, poor and insufficient equipment – ships, armour, artillery, aircraft, etc – do not help maintain morale or foster a positive view of the future. A recent survey also indicated that only 11% of young people would be prepared to fight for their country if called upon to do so.

Sadly, it could take 10-20 years to rebuild our armed forces and the wider defence industry to even 1990s' levels. Hopefully Messrs Putin, Xi or whoever else chooses to threaten us will be kind enough to wait until we're ready!

Cdr Rob Scott RN, Droxford & District RBL

The Hampshire RBL County Pairs tournament returns to The Army Club, Aldershot on MONDAY 18th MAY for the 2026 event so come on Branches and Clubs, please join in! This golf course, one of the finest in North Hampshire is close to the home of the British Army and hosts many events for serving personnel. It is situated close to Farnborough airport but is easily accessible from the M3 and Blackwater valley main routes. It presents a good challenge with its 6300 yd par 71 features which run through gently sloping woodland. We have again secured the military-rate due to our RBL association, so the fee remains at £70.00 per person (£280 per four) which includes coffee and bacon roll on arrival, 18 holes of golf and ham egg and chips to follow plus a contribution to the prizes. The cost to ARMY CLUB members will be £20 (£80 per four). As with last time the format is a team of four with the best two individual scores in each becoming the best pairing

Tee-offs will commence from 10am approx depending on entry size (entry limited to 8 four-balls). Teams will be notified of their exact tee-off positions nearer the date. There are only a few buggies available on the day and YOU will need to book BEFORE then if you require one (01252 337272 and ask for Vivienne). This is primarily a light-hearted event but the pride of YOUR Branch is also at stake and as we will also be holding a raffle for the Poppy Appeal, please bring some cash!

The format of play is: Stableford, full handicap (max: gents 28, ladies 36). There will be prizes for the winners and runners up plus awards for the Longest drive, Nearest the pin and N.T.P. in 2. Players are VERY MUCH expected to dress and behave in accordance with the regulations for most golf courses. Dress for the meal and presentations should be smart casuals. The closing date for entries and receipt of fees by MONDAY 11th MAY.

The completed entry form attached MUST be accompanied by FULL payment. (Photo-copy this form if you require more entry sheets.) Cheques should be made payable to: Mr, R. J. Bourne, or by bank transfer to R. J and P.A Bourne, NAT WEST Bank, sort code 60-02-49, a/c no. 49389416, using your name as reference.

SEND FORM AND PAYMENT TO: Rick Bourne, County Golf Secretary, 86 Cavalier Road, Old Basing, Hants. RG24 7ET. (07900 648675) or email to rickbourne@yahoo.com

MONDAY 18th MAY 2026
(Copy this form as many times as required)

Branch/team name:

Team 1:
Names, handicaps and contact phone numbers.
1
2
3
4

Team 2:
Names, handicaps and contact phone numbers.
1
2
3
4

You can pay by cheque, payable to: Mr. R.J. Bourne and send, with this form, to: Rick Bourne, County Golf Secretary, 86 Cavalier Road, Old Basing, Basingstoke, Hants. RG24 7ET. (07900 648675, email rickbourne@yahoo.com)

You can also transfer funds to R.J and P.A Bourne, NAT WEST Bank, sort code 60-02-49, account number 49389416, using your name as reference. £70 per player (£280 per team of four). Members cost is £20 per person.

ENTRIES SHOULD BE SENT ASAP BUT NO LATER THAN 11th May 2026. CHEQUES MAY BE POST DATED TO SAME DATE



Need Help?

Statistics indicate that approximately twenty two Veterans succumb to their struggles daily. Please spread the word that there is help at hand. Someone's life may depend on it. The following phone numbers are relevant. Call one of them if you need help or just want to talk -

Veterans In Action - 01264 771658
Veteran's Hotline - 0800 1381619
Samaritans - 116123
Breathing Space - 0800 838587.





Branch events

OLD BASING ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



CROWN LANE, OLD BASING, RG24 7DN
4th JUNE 2026 7.30PM START

We are pleased to invite you to our social meeting to hear a presentation by Dan Turner from Hampshire Police. Dan is looking to make contact with local veteran's groups to promote awareness of the Forcer Protocol.

All are welcome whether an RBL member or not, so please do spread the word.

WELCOME TO THE FORCER PROTOCOL
"When the guns go silent, that's when the battle begins"

SUPPORTING VETERANS AND ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL WHEN THEY GO MISSING.

The Forcer Protocol is a life-saving preventative measure for UK veterans and serving personnel, including reservists. Pre-share vital details, including health conditions, triggers and safe places, and if you're ever reported missing, this can help speed up the search and help you access the right support. Born from lived experience and built with UK forces and veterans in mind, the Forcer Protocol is rolling out nationwide.

Named in honour of Alan Forcer, a veteran who tragically took his own life, the protocol was created to ensure that no one who has served our country is left without rapid, compassionate intervention during moments of acute mental distress.

RAPID, COMPASSIONATE INTERVENTION WHEN IT'S NEEDED MOST

SAVING LIVES, ONE MISSING PERSON AT A TIME.

The Forcer Protocol is a UK-wide police initiative to help locate and protect serving or ex-service personnel (veterans and reservists) who go missing.

LIFTING 10K DECKS 16 MAY

10KM RUNNING EVENT

MOD LYNEHAM + VIRTUAL OPTION
MILITARY VEHICLES ON DISPLAY
OPEN TO ALL

REGISTER NOW!



County Training Courses

Please be advised that the following training is now programmed in Hampshire but is accessible to neighbouring Counties:

Secretary's Course

The next secretaries course is scheduled for Saturday 11th April (10am-4pm) at Andover RBL Club. This course is now available for booking/enrollment on Discover. Whilst this course is primarily for Secretaries, we encourage Branch Chairs to attend also. Feedback from Chairmen who attended previous courses with their secretary is that they found it beneficial to improve understanding of the role but also to build that working relationship that is essential for effective branch management

Branch Management - In-Person Course

Normally the in-person course is a one day course on a weekend. Following feedback that this is not helpful for those that work, the course has been adapted for delivery on Teams over 2 x 2hr evening sessions. Our next online course will be run on 21st and 22nd April (6.30 - 8.30pm). L&D have received the details and I expect the enrollment to be available on Discover in the coming days.

This is an opportunity for Branch Chairs in particular, to complete their essential management training but note that the e-learning introduction to Branch management must be completed first. This course is open to anyone but all Branch Officers and Committee members should be encouraged to complete it. Branch Chairs and Secretaries courses. Please ensure that you advertise this opportunity amongst your Branch members. Should you need any further information in relation to training generally or these courses specifically, please contact our County Training Officer John Davies at hampshire.cto@rbl.community J. Davies

Postal Address for Hampshire County Committee - Hampshire & IOW MEO (or Name), Royal British Legion,
199 Borough High St, London SE1 1AA

RBL Website: www.BritishLegion.org.uk, County Website:
<http://counties.britishlegion.org.uk/counties/hampshire>

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/groups/hantscountyrb/

Facebook Email address - Hampshire.web@rbl.community

Poppy Appeal - www.facebook.com.poppy.HampshireRBL

ALL LEGION ENQUIRIES (including Welfare requests) should be directed to the national call centre - **0808
802 8080**

2026-27 HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COMMITTEE

Patron Lt Gen Sir Mark Mans KCB CBE DL Hampshire.meo@rbl.community

President Col A King Hampshire.president@rbl.community

Vice Presidents. B C N Soffe, R G Knight

Chair. R Moore Hampshire.chair@rbl.community

Vice Chair and Training Officer. J Davies Hampshire.CTO@rbl.community

Treasurer. G S Brown Hampshire.treasurer@rbl.community

County Secretary, Conference Secretary and Webmaster. A Mitchell Hampshire.secretary@rbl.community

Committee and Recruiting Officer. T Russell Hampshire.CRO@rbl.community

Committee and Youth Officer. A Dawes Hampshire.CYO@rbl.community

Committee and Conference Chairman. B Mansi Ringwood. chairman@rbl.community

Committee, Poppy Appeal Coordinator S Hampshire + Conference. P Prior

leonsolent.secretary@rbl.community

Conference Committee. P Cunningham, P Perkins, M Brunson

Parade Marshal. D Graham Hampshire.parademarshal@rbl.community

Deputy Parade Marshal. A Cassidy

County Standard Bearer. P Pullin ppullin@britishlegion.org.uk

Hampshire.stdbearer@rbl.community

Deputy County Standard Bearer. A Wells

County Youth Standard Bearer. A Neal

County Padre Reverend. D Roche

County Golf Organiser. R J Bourne

Independent Examiners. G S Brown, J Davies, P Prior, A Mitchell, M Brunson

County Management Board Chair, V/Chair, Treasurer, Secretary

Annual Conference Delegate. R Moore

Poppy Appeal Manager North Hampshire. C Hayward chayward@britishlegion.org.uk

Poppy Appeal Manager South Hampshire. C Smith csmith4@britishlegion.org.uk

Membership Engagement Officer. K Parkinson Hampshire.meo@rbl.community

Membership Engagement Manager. K Jeffery kjeffery@britishlegion.org.uk

Membership Council Representative. D Taylor dtaylor@britishlegion.org.uk

Hampshire Link. Col D Wall MSM (Rhod), MMM HampshireLinkDW@yahoo.com

Errors and Omissions Excepted

