

We will remember them



To all whom we have lost this month. Our sincere condolences to family and friends. We especially remember Mary Sneyd, wife of Brigadier Tom Sneyd OBE, the President of the Kingsclere branch, who sadly passed away. She was a very special lady and will be sadly missed.



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

Annual Meeting of the County Conference Saturday 18th January 2025

Notice is given that the Annual Meeting of the County Conference is to be held at The Jubilee Hall, Little Shore Lane, Bishop's Waltham, SO32 1ED on Saturday 18th January 2025. It starts at 10h30 and is anticipated to end no later than 16h00. The County Conference is conducted under the County Bylaws and the Standing Orders for Conference issued to Branches.

All returns for inclusion in the Annual County Conference must reach the MEO by 30th November 2024 unless otherwise stated.

TO JOIN CONFERENCE AS A DELEGATE:

Please complete the enclosed form to notify us of the branch delegate/s names (FORM A available from County HQ). Don't forget to pre-order lunch.

MOTIONS AND ROYAL CHARTER AMENDMENTS:

Proposed Motions and amendments to the Royal Charter of Incorporation and Schedules for inclusion in the Annual County Conference Agenda must be approved by a Branch General Meeting, given in writing and signed by the Branch Secretary or Chairman. A template for motions and charter motions is included. (FORM B available from County HQ)

NOMINATIONS TO COUNTY COMMITTEE:

There are positions on the County Committee to be filled. Any Member of a Hampshire Branch may be nominated for election to the County Committee. Please Note: Elected County Committee members will be required to agree and sign the "Certificate of Acknowledgement of Responsibility"

A nomination form is enclosed for all vacant positions and for Conference Venue 2027. (FORM C available from County HQ)

All county committee nominees are required to provide a CV - a template for cv's is attached. (FORM D available from County HQ)

COUNTY CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION:

Branches may apply for the award of a COUNTY CERTIFICATE of APPRECIATION for a Branch member

who has shown excellent performance at Branch or County levels. These are awarded at the discretion of the County Committee and are ONLY presented at the County Conference. Application forms are obtainable from the MSO. The number awarded by the County in any one year may be limited.

ALL BRANCHES ARE URGED TO TAKE PART IN THE COUNTY COMPETITIONS

A list of all County Cups and Awards and Application forms are distributed with this notice.

National Awards for PROGRESS AND EFFICIENCY

Lister Cup (for small branches with up to 50 members) Haig Cup (for branches with over 50 members) which during the previous year has shown the most progress and efficiency in various areas e.g. activities, recruitment, events, remembrance, local community, online (LOMAS/Office 365), fundraising.

Application forms are available from the MEO and will be judged by the Cups sub-committee. The County may nominate more than one entry to the national competition. Return the completed form to Pat Prior 155/157 High Street, Lee-On-The-Solent, PO13 9BX or by email to Hampshire.web@rbl.community.

Please note that the deadline to return all forms for County Conference is 30th November 2024 unless otherwise stated.



Image taken from the internet



**Operation Market Garden
Arnhem 17th September 1944**

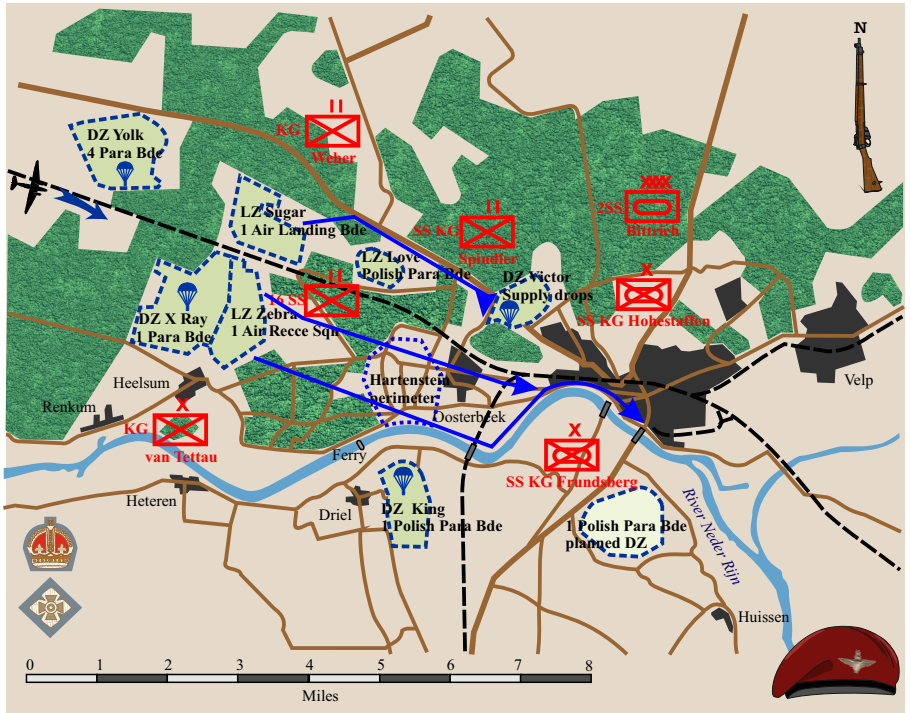
SEPTEMBER 1944 OPERATION MARKET GARDEN - ARNHEM

After the successful conclusion of Operation Overlord that allowed the Allies to land on French soil on D Day and then to advance inland to liberate North Western Europe, the next step was to cross the Rhine River into Germany and finally defeat the Germans, before taking on the final global belligerent, Japan. In order to do this the Allies needed to consolidate their positions, build up sustainable logistics and then continue into Germany's heartland.

Combined forces from Great Britain, Canada, the USA and various other countries liberated Paris and then Brussels. The next step was to liberate the Netherlands, thus giving the Allies the opportunity to attack western Germany over a wide front. The end state was to force Germany to surrender. Germany found itself under attack from both the west and from the Russians in the east. The significant German industrial region of the Ruhr, (maintaining the industrial and logistical supply of much of the German armed forces) was closest to the Netherlands border. The USA wanted to advance on a very wide front into Germany, crossing the Rhine River in several places.

The Rhine and the Maas Rivers posed a major obstacle to the successful conclusion of the war. The British approach was more daring. Their proposal was to advance on a narrow front into the Netherlands, using airborne forces deployed ahead to capture the vital bridges allowing mechanised units the safe crossing of the many canals and rivers to quickly get to the Ruhr. Once Germany's logistical supply network was destroyed the advance into central Germany would be the final step to ending the war in Europe.

This approach was implemented in conjunction with the US broad front concept. Operation Market Garden began on the 17th September 1944 with the British and Polish airborne forces jumping at Arnhem to capture the bridge over the River Neder Rijn while US airborne units captured the bridges at Eindhoven / Veghel and at Grave just south of Nijmegen. The intention was for the British ground forces to cross the captured bridges as swiftly as possible and then advance on Arnhem to relieve the British 1 Airborne Division and then to advance into Germany the town of Wesel and on to the Ruhr. The US 1st and 3rd Armies were tasked to advance via Bastogne and Verdun and further south to capture and cross the Rhine



river within Germany.

The Battle at Arnhem

17th September 1944. Operation Market Garden began. The British landing near Arnhem is met by heavy German resistance. The American 82nd Division captured its targets at Waals but met heavy resistance at Nijmegen. The ferry over the Neder Rijn River was not captured by the British.

Railway bridge over the Neder Rijn River was destroyed by the Germans. Pontoon bridge not functioning.

1st Air Landing Bde arrives on LZ Zulu.

1st Abn Bde jumps on LZ X Ray.

2nd Para Bn reached the road bridge and takes up defensive positions.

18th September 1944. A German counterattack stopped the Americans entering Nijmegen.

4 Abn Bde jumps on LZ Yolk.

The British positions were heavily attacked by Bittich's SS in an effort to stop further British landings.

19th September 1944. Polish gilders land on LZ Love. The leading elements of the British 30th Corps reached the Americans at Nijmegen but all efforts to break through to the British at Arnhem fail.

20th September 1944. The bridge at Nijmegen was captured by a combined US / British assault.



1st Para Bde, 1st Abn Div, DZ X littered with
parachutes from previous drop, 17 September 1944

OPERATION MARKET GARDEN - ARNHEM

21st September 1944. The British paratroopers defending the northern end of the bridge at Arnhem were heavily attacked. Those British troops who did not get through to Arnhem formed a defensive barrier west of Oosterbeek.

22nd September 1944. British armoured columns try to break through to relieve Arnhem and are delayed by German attacks.

23rd September 1944. Poles and troops of 30th British Corps fail to cross the river at Arnhem.

25th September 1944. The surviving British troops were evacuated but nearly 3000 were captured. Over 1,200 British troops were killed in a plan that went a 'bridge too far.' DW



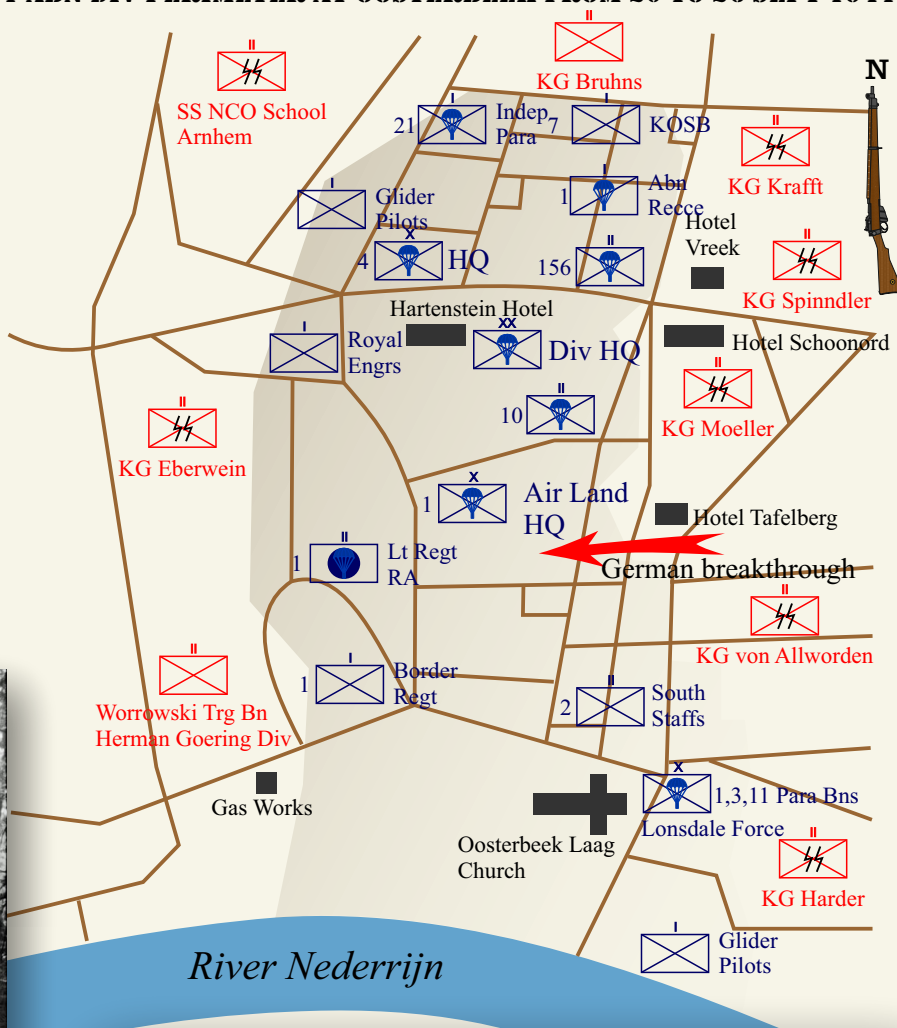
Brigade HQ defensive position



HQ 1st Airlanding Light Regt, RA unload Horsa glider at LZ near Wolfheze, Holland, 17 Sept 1944



1 ABN DIV PERIMETER AT OOSTERBEEK FROM 20 TO 26 SEPT 1944



Maj Genl Robert E Urquhart CO 1st British Abn Div outside his HQ at Hartenstein Hotel in Oosterbeek, 22 September 1944

ANNUAL COMMEMORATION SERVICE NEW FOREST AIRFIELD MEMORIAL

On Sunday 31st August our County Chairman Tim Russell attended the Annual Commemoration Service at the New Forest Airfields Memorial at Holmsley South, near Bransgore. The service was also attended by Military Representatives from Australia, New Zealand, Netherlands, Poland and the United Kingdom alongside the UK Service Organisations of RAFA, RBL, RNA and the Glider Pilot Association and were hosted by the Friends of the New Forest Airfields (FONFA) and local Councillors and MP's for a wonderful event.

This area was a very important part of our air defences during World War Two. There were three runways forming Holmsley South airfield, built in 1941 was first used by 547 Squadron RAF and 8th USAAF flying Wellingtons and Liberators. They were followed by 58 and 502 Squadrons of RAF Coastal Command with Whitleys and the Halifaxes on long-range anti-submarine patrols. During 1943, glider



training with Horsas took place in preparation for long distance towing of gliders to North Africa ready for the invasion of



Sicily. In the period before D-Day, four RAF Typhoon Squadrons (174, 182, 184 and 245) were based here using rockets to attack targets in France.

In March 1944 RCAF squadrons, 441, 442 and 443 arrived with Spitfires followed by 418 Squadron RCAF flying Mosquitos, 418 sqdn became the highest scoring Canadian squadron in World War Two Mustangs of 306 and 315 (Polish) Squadrons briefly visited, followed by four Marauder Squadrons on the USAAF 394th Bomb Group before moving to France. After August 1944 it became a RAF Transport Command base housing 167 and 246 Sqns flying Warwick, Liberator, York, Halifax and Skymaster aircraft ferrying troops and freight to Europe, the Middle East and Far East.



The Airfield closed in 1946 and was returned to the Forestry Commission. The memorial remembers all those who served and passed through this airfield to Europe and further afield, many, never to return. County Chairman Tim Russell



Earl Mountbatten Annual Memorial Service Romsey Abbey 1st September 2024

The Earl Mountbatten annual Memorial Service was held at Romsey Abbey by the Earl Mountbatten Memorial Branch of the RBL on the 1st September. The invited guests included the Rt Hon Countess Mountbatten of Burma (High Steward of Romsey), Rt Hon Caroline Noakes MP (Romsey and Southampton North), Mr Ian Jeffrey (Mayor TVBC), Lt Gen Sir Mark Mans KCB, CBE, DL (RBL County Patron) and his wife, Maj Gen (ret'd) Julian Thompson (Royal Marines) and his wife, Col (ret'd) AN

King (County President), Mr Brian Soffe (County Vice President), Mr Tim Russell (County Chairman) and various other guests of honour.



The branch was formed in 1980 by a group of 18 founder members at a meeting held on 20th March of that year. Lt Col Howard was elected Chairman and Mr Brian Soffe was elected Hon Secretary. The dedication of the branch Standard was held at Winchester Cathedral on 12th October 1980. In 1981 Lord

Romsey accepted the post of Honorary Patron and served in this capacity until 2010. In August 1998 a new Standard was dedicated at the annual service and the old Standard was placed in St Nicholas Chapel above the tomb of Earl Mountbatten.

The branch underwent a name change and is now known as Romsey Mountbatten Branch



Petersfield Branch Remembrance Activities

Petersfield RBL branch has also participated in various remembrance activities in the last month and held a church and wreath laying service in remembrance of those who lost their lives during the Battle of Britain. The event was attended by the Deputy Mayor and members of RBL and 1927 Sqn Air Training Corps. The service was based on the famous quote - "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few". Petersfield made sure that "The few" are remembered and not forgotten. Victory over Japan was also part of their remembrance activities. David Lloyd Secretary Petersfield RBL.



Training Matters

Specific training is a requirement for all County and Branch Officers and, those volunteering for BCS. Additionally, it is highly recommended for Branch and County Committee members. To do that training, you have to be registered on the 'Discover' Training Platform. The not so good news is that in the whole of the County, only 66 persons have registered on the Discovery Training platform and, of those: 17 have not enrolled on any course and 12 people have enrolled on 43 different courses and then not started them. Further, of those 66, some are committee members or BCS supporters so, if you are a Branch Officer, it does not make good reading! With the number of Branches within the County we should have in excess of 200 people registered on Discover. The better news is that the other 37 people who are already registered on 'Discover' have completed 111 courses between them.

To register go to <https://learn.britishlegion.org.uk>

Once you are on the registration landing page, you just need to:

1. Fill in your details ensuring that the username and email address are the same.
2. We recommend that you use a personal email rather than an 'RBL.community' one
3. Enter your County/District/Area code as "Hampshire"
4. Enter up to four roles that you hold, this will personalise the training.

Once you submit, it can take up to two days to validate your registration, after which you will be sent login details and you can start your training. There are also course available relating to the use of Office 365 and MAOP.

Branch Management Training

Courses 426, 472 & 473 form the 1st phase of Branch Management training. Course 358 comprises two elements, a one day in person training session followed by a 1-hour webinar. Currently, Branch Officers are required to complete the first phase before they

can enrol on Course 358. However, we have agreed with the Learning and Development (L&D) team at HQ that CTOs can deliver an extended 1-day course which covers both courses 426 and 358. Anyone who has completed the online training will be able to join the 1-day course but at a slightly later start time. We will notify L&D that you have completed that training and they will update your profile on Discover. The Data Protection and Safeguarding courses will still need to be completed online before you are signed off as having completed the Management training

The Recruiting Advisers Course has been reviewed by CTOs and CROs is ready for launch.

In Person Training

I will be looking to deliver three in-person courses in the very near future; two in the south of the county and one in the north. For those Chairmen that have accessible club/meeting places that can cater for @20 persons and they are willing to act as host please contact me.

John Davies

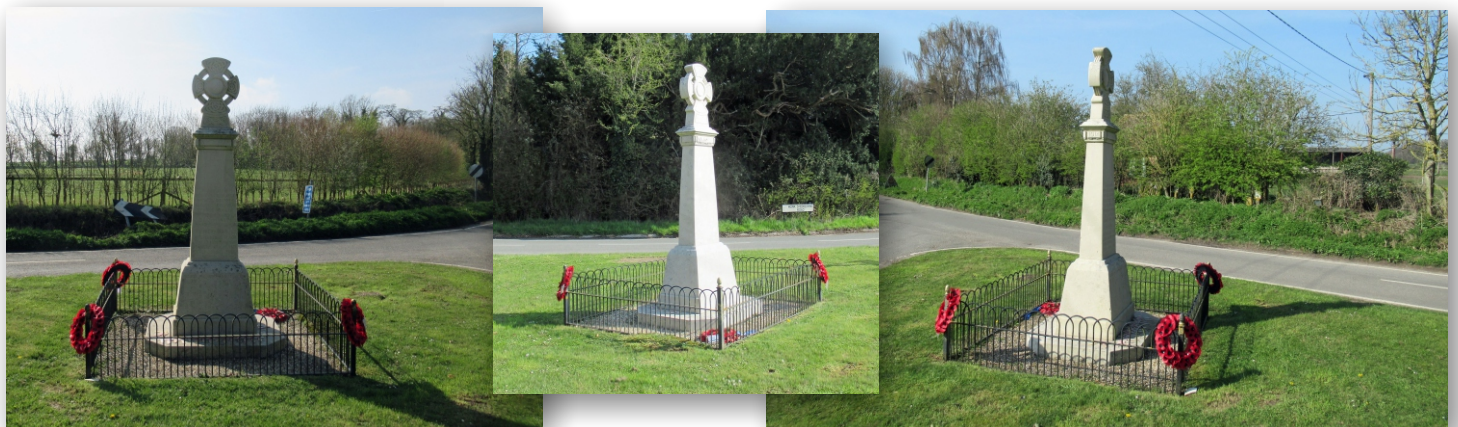
County Training Officer

Hampshire.CTO@rbl.community



Code	Course Name	Type
EC126	Lone Working	E-Learning
ILT028	Branch Community Support: New Supporters	ILT (Instructor-Led Training)
ILT029	Branch Community Support: Refresher	ILT (Instructor-Led Training)
ILT030	Branch Management	ILT (Instructor-Led Training)
EC257	County Management	E-Learning
ILT031	County Management	ILT (Instructor-Led Training)
ILT032	County Training Officer (CTO) Course	ILT (Instructor-Led Training)
ILT049	County Recruiting Officer (CRO) Course	ILT (Instructor-Led Training)
EC237	Branch Management	E-Learning
EC247	Branch Treasurer Course	E-Learning
IEC003	Data Protection (Membership)	E-Learning
IEC004	Safeguarding Adults (Membership)	E-Learning
EC248	LOMAS Training	E-Learning
ILT074	Branch Community Support: New Supporters (Online)	ILT (Instructor-Led Training)
EC255	Independent Examiner Course	E-Learning

Monk Sherbourne Memorial



Other News

Bordon Poppy Ball

Bordon Poppy Ball

The RBL and REME Association are holding a Ball to launch Poppy Appeal for 2024

Date: Friday 18th October 2024 19h00 for 19h30 to 23h00

Place: The Bordon Masonic Centre.

On Offer: 3 course dinner, music, dancing, raffle, whisky draw and a fun evening

Dress: smart casual

Price: £37 per person

RSVP: Barry Farrington 07592624376

Last booking date: Friday 4th October.

Menu. Starter A) Fresh Tomato & Mozzarella, drizzled with Pesto dressing. (V) B) Chicken Liver Pate, served on a bed of Salad & Melba toast. Main C) Braised Beef Steak, in a Mirepoix of Vegetables, Served on a bed of Creamy Mashed Potatoes. D) Creamy Chicken, Mushroom & White wine Pie, served with seasonal Vegetables & Rosemary Roast Potatoes. E) Stuffed Roasted Red Pepper with home made Ratatouille, accompanied with New Potatoes in Herb Butter. (V) F) Home made Lasagne, layers of Spinach Pasta & Vegetables, in a Creamy white sauce, & finished with Cheddar cheese. (V) Desserts G) Treacle Tart served with Vanilla Custard. H) Chunky Apple Pie server with Vanilla Ice Cream. I) Or Cheese & Biscuits. All meals served with a Crispy Warm Bread Roll Tea & Coffee

Any Special Dietary requirements, please contact Barry ASAP on 07592624376 b_farrington@hotmail.com

Payment: Cash or Cheques made out to the "Poppy Ball " account B.a.c's detail (preferred) Reference Poppy Ball and your name Account name, Barry Farrington Sort code. 09-01-30, Account Number. 07707801

Contact: Barry Farrington 01420 477475 or 07592624376

Standard Bearer Training Dates 2024



Hampshire Standard Bearer Training 2024

	EASTLEIGH Pavilion on the Park 1 Kingfisher Drive, Eastleigh, SO50 9LH	ASH Ash Manor School Manor Rd, Ash, Aldershot GU12 6QH
Please arrive ten minutes before training starts to prepare yourself and your Standard		
January	No Training	Tuesday 9th 18:50 - 20:00
February	No Training	Tuesday 20th 18:50 - 20:00
March	Sunday 17th 13:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 12th 18:50 - 20:00
April	Sunday 14th 13:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 16th 18:50 - 20:00
May	Sunday 12th 13:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 16th 18:50 - 20:00
June	Sunday 9th 13:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 18th 18:50 - 20:00
July	Sunday 14th 13:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 9th 18:50 - 20:00
August	Sunday 11th 13:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 6th 18:50 - 20:00
September	Sunday 8th 13:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 10th 18:50 - 20:00
October	Sunday 13th 13:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 15th 18:50 - 20:00
November	Sunday 3rd 13:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 5th 18:50 - 20:00
December	No Training	No Training
Please note: All Standard Bearer should attend two training sessions a year, and be physically fit enough to carry the Standard, as agreed when they signed the yearly MS1 Form. Annual RBL Conference Newport 10th - 12th May 2024		
Hampshire Parade Marshal: David Graham E: Hampshire.ParadeMarshal@rbl.community M: 07597 455112		

The Iraq Medal 2004



VETERANS' BREAKFAST

THURSDAY 5th September

FROM 0930 TO 1130 HRS

AT THE

BOGNOR REGIS RAFA CLUB

(Breakfast served at 0930)

MEET
OLD
FRIENDS
AND
MAKE
NEW
ONES



CATCH UP
ON
WHAT
WE CAN
DO
FOR
VETERANS

FOR THOSE WHO SERVED IN THE ARMY, NAVY OR AIR FORCE
IN THIS COUNTRY OR FROM THE COMMONWEALTH FORCES

WE ASK FOR A MINIMUM £5.00 DONATION TOWARDS COSTS
FROM THOSE WHO CAN AFFORD IT

LIMITED NUMBERS - MUST BE PREBOOKED
LIST AVAILABLE FROM THE BAR

SUPPORTED BY **TESCO** COMMUNITY GRANTS



This medal was awarded to all British forces and civilian personnel (including some media personnel) who participated in Operation Telic and were involved in the operations for the liberation of Iraq and the overthrow of Saddam Hussein. The medal can be awarded with a clasp 19 Mar to 28 Apr 2003. DW

County Contact Details

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/hantscountyrbl/ Facebook Email - Hampshire.web@rbl.community

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

Contact us

It's your newsletter!!!

If anyone has any articles that they would like published in the Newsletter then please contact the editor (Colonel (Retd) Dudley Wall MSM MMM) with any information or articles by the 20th of the month at:

HampshireLinkDW@yahoo.com

ALL LEGION ENQUIRIES

(including Welfare requests) should be directed to the national call centre

0808 802 8080

County Personnel

Patron Lt Gen Sir Mark Mans KCB CBE DL

County President Col Andrew King

County Vice President Brian C.N. Soffe

County Vice President Robert G. Knight

Chairman Tim Russell Hampshire.Chairman@rbl.community

Vice-Chairman Robert Bartlett Hampshire.vicechairman@rbl.community

Treasurer Ges Brown hampshire.treasurer@rbl.community

Independent Examiners - G.S. Brown and M. Davis

Committee members - Secretary Melvyn Cole, John Davies, Paul Holyoake, Brian Mansi, Avril Mitchell, Vic Thorn, David Barton

County Management Board: Tim Russell, Robert Bartlett, Ges Brown, Melvyn Cole, John Davies

Conference Committee: Chairman Brian Mansi, Secretary Avril Mitchell, Pat Prior BEM QVRM, Melvyn Cole, Nigel Thomas,

Rev John Morley

Cups Sub-Committee: Avril Mitchell, Pat Prior BEM QVRM. Brian Mansi

Annual Conference Delegate: Tim Russell

Poppy Appeal Manager North: Sarah Ferris

Poppy Appeal Manager South: Claire Smith

Regional Poppy Appeal Manager: Clare Peppiatt

Poppy Appeal Coordinator - North: Vacant

Poppy Appeal Coordinator - South: Pat Prior BEM QVRM

Principal Recruiting Officer: VACANT

County Training Officer: John Davies

Community Support: VACANT

CCSC: VACANT

Clubs Liaison: Paul Holyoake

Communications Support: Dudley Wall HampshireLinkDW@yahoo.com

County Webmaster: Avril Mitchell Hampshire.Web@rbl.community

Youth Officer: Steve Slack Hampshire.CYO@rbl.community

Events Support: VACANT

Parade Marshall: David Graham, Deputy Parade Marshall: Andy Cassidy

County Standard Bearer: Pete Pullin, ppullin@britishlegion.org.uk

Deputy County Standard Bearer: Andy Cassidy

County Youth Standard Bearer: Natalia Szymkiewicz

Ceremonial Support: David Graham, Karen Graham

County Padre: Reverend David Roache

Golf Officer: Rick Bourne

Membership Engagement Officer: Holly Church, Membership Engagement Manager: Martin Pelling

Membership Council Representative: Gerry Nunn

Public Relations Officer: VACANT

Independent Examiners: Ges Brown, Mike Davis

UK Honours Awards: County President, County M.E.O.