

Edition Date: June 2023

## We will remember them

To all whom we have lost this month. Our sincere condolences to family and friends.

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

County correspondence can be addressed to Hampshire & IOW MSO, PO Box 317, Southampton. SO45 9BS

## BRANCH FEES: A MESSAGE FROM HQ

**Y**our Branch Fees for 2023/2024 On open letter from HQ and County. 'Do you have a Branch fee and do you know what it is for? If you have any questions, please contact the County Chairman.

Dear Members,

Thank you for being a member of the Royal British Legion and for proudly standing by our nations' Armed Forces community.

We are writing to you as the point of contact for your branch to see if you wish to introduce or change your branch fees (in addition to the £18 membership fee) for the upcoming financial year, commencing 1st October 2023. You should also receive a letter detailing the same information.

The branch administration fee raises funds to cover the administrative costs of engaging and recruiting members. If you decide to charge a branch administration fee, the rate chosen will apply to your branch members whose renewal date is between 1st October 2023 and 30th September 2024. If you decide to charge a branch joining fee, it will apply to members who join your branch during the same period. All branch fees will be collected centrally with the membership fee and will be returned to your branch every quarter. If you wish to introduce or change your branch fees, then please reply by 30th June 2023. Please follow the instructions below to inform us of the new fees.

If you would like the branch fee(s) to remain the same as in the current financial year you do not need to contact us: if we do not hear from your branch, the branch fees will remain unchanged.

Please bear in mind that we will only upload the fees once and will not be able to change them during the 2023/2024 financial year after the cut-off date of 30th June 2023.

If you have recently changed your branch bank account details, please inform your Membership Engagement

Officer so that the quarterly fee payments are returned to the correct bank account.

If you have any queries, please email us: [membershipservices@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:membershipservices@britishlegion.org.uk)  
Thank you for your invaluable support and dedication.  
The Membership Services Team

Instructions for Branches wishing to introduce or change their branch fees for 2023/24  
To change your branch fees, please use one of the following methods:

Email: [membershipservices@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:membershipservices@britishlegion.org.uk)  
Please provide the following information:

- a) Full Branch Name
- b) BR code
- c) Currency (£ or €)
- d) New branch administration fee
- e) New branch joining fee

If you do not receive confirmation from the membership team within 10 working days, please contact us.

Post: Membership Services, The Royal British Legion, 199 Haig House, London, SE1 1AA.

Please provide the following information:

- a) Full Branch Name
- b) BR code
- c) Currency (£ or €)
- d) New branch administration fee
- e) New branch joining fee

If you do not receive confirmation from the membership team within 10 working days, please contact us.

Tim Russell  
County Chairman





## The Coronation of King Charles III

**K**ing Charles III was crowned at Westminster Abbey on 6 May 2023, following in the centuries old tradition of British monarchs.

The ceremony was based on the Anglican Church service of Holy Communion. Charles was required to take an oath to serve the nation which was followed by an ancient ceremony where he was anointed with holy oil behind a set of screens in the only private part of the coronation ceremony. He then received the coronation regalia, (crown, sceptre and sword) as symbols of his spiritual role and secular responsibilities. Thereafter senior members of



the Church of England and the British royal family declared their allegiance to him. All members of the Commonwealth were also invited to do so on a voluntary basis. Thereafter, Queen Consort, Camilla was crowned in a shorter and simpler ceremony. Once complete the Royal Family returned to Buckingham Palace in a state procession and on arrival, appeared on the palace's rear and front balconies. The service was altered to represent multiple faiths, cultures, and communities across the United Kingdom. Approximately 20.4 million people in the UK watched the ceremony on TV.

## Petersfield Branch celebrations for the Coronation of King Charles III



**P**etersfield branch held a parade and fete to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III.

The fete included a display of military memorabilia which was very popular amongst the visitors and generated interest and conversations.

David Lloyd kindly sent in the photos.



## The Memorial at Ecchinswell





## 6 June 1944 - D Day

The 6th June 1944 was the culmination of many months of planning and preparation in an effort to begin the ending of the Second World War. It is significant as this day changed the world. One of the main aspects of the Royal British Legion is remembrance. We take time to reflect on the day; the losses and injuries and to say a quiet thank you for the sacrifices made that day.

**00h00 5th June.** RAF conduct a dummy paratroop airdrop using dolls to deceive the German deployments in Normandy in the vicinity of Seine-Maritime, Calvados and Manche. An SAS team parachutes into the Contentin peninsular five miles west of Saint-Lô with amplifiers to play combat sounds, mortar explosions and soldiers shouting as part of the deception plan for D Day.

**00h10 6th June.** British para pathfinders are inserted over Normandy to mark DZs and LZs for the paratroops and glider borne first wave. Six minutes later 6 x Horsa gliders land near the Bénouville Bridge over the Caen Canal (code named Ham aka Horsa Bridge) and the Ranville Bridge (code named Jam aka Pegasus Bridge) over the River Orne. The force of 180 men was under command of Major John Howard and was tasked to secure the bridges before demolition and to prevent the German forces advancing on the D Day beaches from Calais. Both bridges were captured intact within 15 minutes of landing after a skirmish with German forces.

**00h50.** 6th Airborne Division is dropped near Ranville, Merville, Trouffeville and Troarn. Their task is to destroy the German battery of Merville overlooking the beaches where the ground forces are to land, to the south-east of

Cabourg, and to destroy the bridges and occupy the crest of Troarn to prevent the arrival of German reinforcements during the D Day landings. The US 101st and 82nd Airborne Divisions land on the Cotentin peninsular but are scattered widely and sustain several casualties as they drown in flooded fields.

**01h15.** Operation Taxable commences. RAF 617 Squadron is tasked to drop strips of "window", metal foil that fools radar operators that they are looking at a naval convoy. Operation Glimmer also commences when RAF 218 Squadron also drop "window" near Boulogne-sur-Mer to give the impression that the invasion is intended for the Pas-de-Calais area.

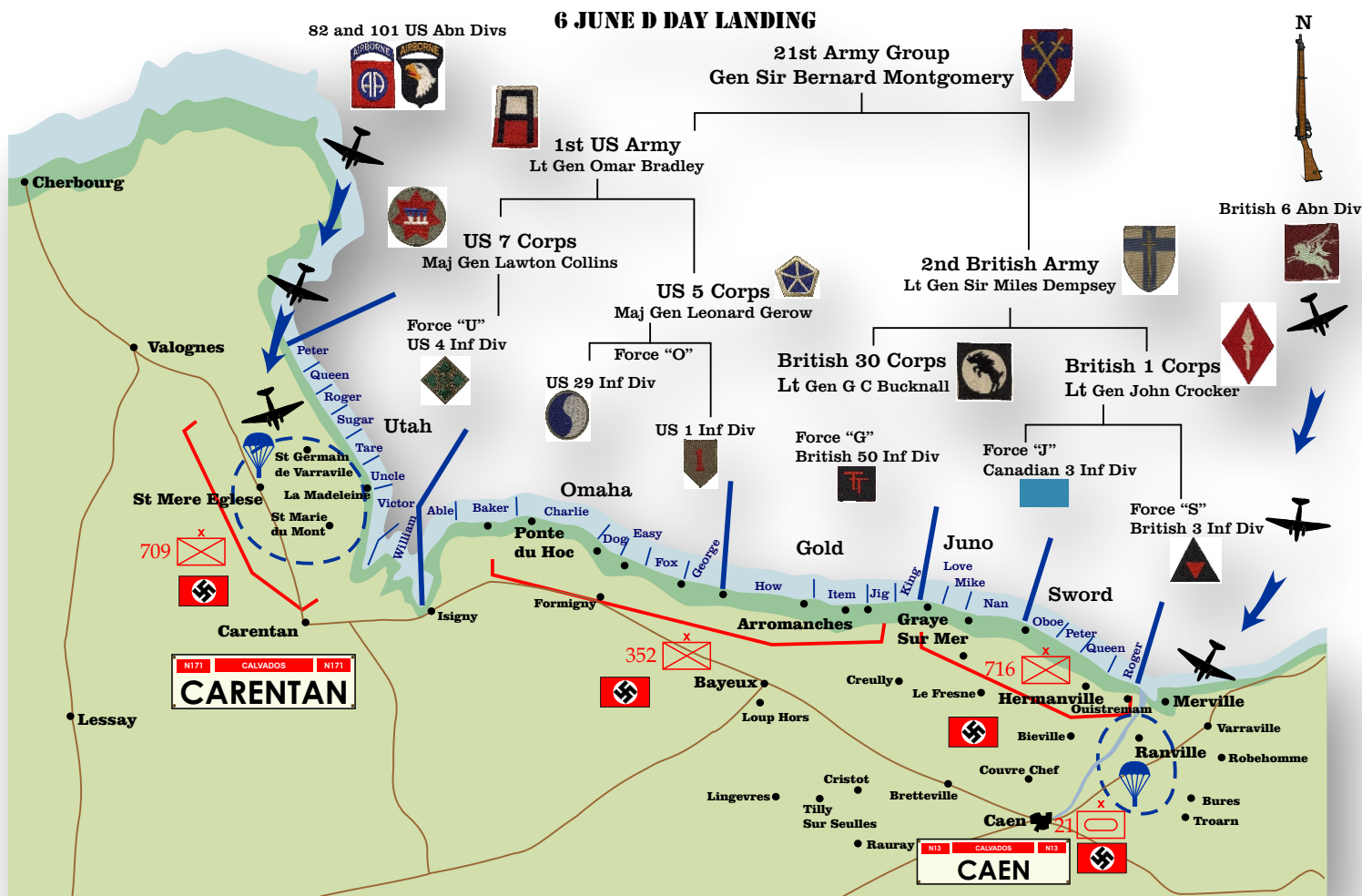
**01h30.** 150 out of 600 men of 9th Parachute Battalion (6 Abn Div) rendezvous one mile east of Merville. The rest of the Bn are scattered widely. Thirty minutes later RAF and USAAF bombers take off to conduct bombing sorties on targets near the beachheads.

**02h40.** German commander, Field Marshal von Rundstedt receives reports of the fighting in Normandy but still assumes that the main landing is to take place at Pas-de-Calais.

**03h00.** US Navy ships are in place off the beaches ready to commence the landing of US forces. Thirty minutes later assault troops begin boarding landing craft. Thirty minutes later HQ, 6th Abn Div lands by glider north of Ranville and by 04h00 3rd Bn, 505th Para Inf Regt (505th PIR) of 82nd Abn Div capture Sainte-Mère-Eglise. This is the first town to be liberated.

**04h30.** X-class midget submarines (X20 and X23), having been in position for two days, surface to put up an 18-ft

### 6 JUNE D DAY LANDING



## 6 June 1944 - D Day



First US assault waves head towards the beach in Dog sector, Omaha area, 6 June 1944.  
Photo from the Imperial war Museum.

telescopic mast equipped with navigation lights and radio beacon to guide British and Canadian landing craft to the beaches.

**04h35.** 132 x US 4th Cavalry Group men land off the St Marcouf islands (three miles off Utah beach) and confirm that there are no German artillery batteries but there are minefields.

**04h40.** Von Rundstedt orders 12th SS Panzer Division and Panzer-Lehr to deploy to Calvados. Gen Jodl, at German Armed Forces High Command (OKW), cancels the order and decides to wait for Hitler's orders. Five minutes later Merville battery is captured by British 9th Para Bn, allowing for the landing on Sword beach. The battery has old 75mm guns and not 150mm guns as was initially presumed.

**05h30.** Allied naval forces comprising 7 battleships, 23 cruisers and 103 destroyers begin bombardment of beaches. HMS Belfast is one of the ships bombarding Juno beach. USS Tuscaloosa bombards the batteries on Utah beach.

**06h40.** Omaha Beach. 34,000 men and 3,300 vehicles land. Several landing craft miss their targets. Sherman tanks fitted with floats begin to sink before getting to the beaches. The German 352nd Infantry Division defends their positions vigorously. A minute later the crew of USS Corry abandon ship due to severe damage.

**06h45.** Utah Beach. The US 4th Division land with minor opposition. A few minutes later Berlin Radio broadcasts that Allied paratroopers have landed in France. Just before 07h00 385 x B-17s of the 1st Bombardment Division bomb coastal batteries on Gold beach between Longues-sur-Mer and Courseulles-sur-Mer. 322 x B-17s of the 3rd Bombardment Division bombard defences between Bernières and Ouistreham east of Juno and Sword beaches.

**07h10.** A US Army Ranger Assault Group

(225 all ranks) advance on the eastern face of Pointe du Hoc, a 100-ft high fortified cliff between Utah and Omaha beaches and destroy the empty gun emplacements as the German artillery there had been redeployed. Fighting continues for 36 hours in this vicinity and 125 rangers become casualties.

**07h25.** H-Hour on Sword beach. British 3rd Inf Div consisting of 28 845 men, lands to link up with 6th Abn Div and 3rd Canadian Inf Div. Their objective is to capture Caen and the Carpiquet aerodrome by nightfall.

**07h30.** H-Hour on Gold beach. British 50th Inf Div land and their objective is to establish a beachhead between Arromanches and Ver-sur-Mer (where the artificial Mulberry harbours are to be positioned). They then advance to Bayeux to cut the road to Caen. The Div suffers 413 casualties.

**07h35.** H-Hour on Juno beach. 3rd Canadian Inf Div (21400 men) delays disembarkation by 10 minutes due to rough seas. Disembarking, they discover that beach obstacles are partly submerged by the tide and cannot clear them. This results in the landing craft detonating several mines and several are destroyed or damaged. Heavy casualties are sustained in the first hour on Juno. The Div suffers 1200 casualties. German general Edgar Feuchtinger deploys 21st Panzer Division to the eastern beaches and shortly after the BBC Radio broadcasts a message to say that Supreme Allied Headquarters have issued an urgent warning to inhabitants of the enemy-occupied countries living near the coast.

**08h10.** Sword Beach. Fighting continues inland and on the east flank Commando units reach the River Orne. A total of 630 casualties are suffered securing the beach. The second wave deployments commences and 1st Special Service Brigade commandos land with piper Bill Millin playing "Highland Laddie". Their orders are to relieve Major John Howard at Pegasus Bridge.

**08h25.** Sherman tanks on Omaha beach give covering fire to troops but casualties are severe. As the tide comes in there are many vehicles stuck on the beach and many wounded drown as they cannot move.

**08h50.** Juno Beach. Elements of 48 Royal Marines land Saint-Aubin-sur-mer on Juno Beach, Normandy. Hitler is given the news of the Allied invasion.

**09h15.** Utah Beach. The landings are going badly and casualties are mounting while on Omaha Beach Naval vessels try to give as much covering fire in the form of off shore bombardments

**10h33.** 3 Canadian Inf Div report that Juno beach is under their control and they are deploying inland to their objectives and just afterwards German 21st Panzer Division is ordered to attack the area between Bayeux and Caen.

**11h07.** The South Lancashire



4 Commando, 1st Special Service Brigade, advance into Ouistreham, Sword area, 6 June 1944.  
Photo from the Imperial War Museum.



## 6 June 1944 - D Day



50th Div, Gold area, 6 June 1944. Sexton 25pdr gun of 147th Fd Regt (Essex Yeomanry), 56th Inf Bde.  
Photo from Imperial War Museum.

Regt capture Hermanville but cannot advance without tank support from the Staffordshire Yeomanry in order to move on. The casualties on Utah amount to 2,000 dead.

**11h48.** Gold Beach. The assault on Le Hamel proves difficult. 147th Fd Regt Royal Arty provides support.

**12h30.** Sword Beach. 1st South Lancashire Regiment and 2nd East Yorkshire Regiment (East Yorks) form the assault group and capture the strongpoint at la Breche and Hermanville-sur-Mer. 185th Infantry Brigade deploys as the second wave and advances inland without supporting armour. At about this time General Rommel is on the way back to his HQ at La Roche-Guyon from Germany.

**12h40.** Gold Beach. 1st Bn Hampshire Regt are delayed by German forces outside Le Hamel. 50 Inf Div has been able to advance inland over a distance of four miles near Creully. 47 Cmdo Royal Marines capture Port-en-Bessin and close the gap with the US forces at Omaha. Lord Lovat's Commandos relieve Major John Howard at the Benouville bridges. Meanwhile off Juno Beach the Canadian and British Commando forces advance through St Aubin and Courseulles.

**13h10.** Off Utah Beach. 4th US Inf Div advanced inland with minimal resistance despite the flooded marshlands and link up with US Airborne forces in the Merderet and Douve valleys. On Omaha Beach US units capture German strongpoints including fortification WN72, with its 88mm and 50mm guns. 29th US Inf Div make good progress despite heavy resistance from the Germans.

**13h30.** Allied aircraft of 2nd Bombardment Division flying 70 B-24s bombard Caen (160 tons).

**14h10.** Gold Beach. Company Sergeant Major Stanley Hollis of the Green Howards captures two pillboxes on his own and clears close by trench systems, earning the only Victoria Cross on D-Day. Shortly after Périers, south of Sword beach, is liberated by the Staffordshire Yeomanry. The German 22nd Panzer Regiment advances past Caen towards the Allied beach heads.

**14h48.** US troops capture and hold Colleville-sur-Mer. German 916th Grenadier Regiment counter-attack without

success.

**15h00.** The first sections of the artificial harbours (Mulberry) are deployed from England. Their deployment will ensure that ships can begin their logistical re-supply of the forces that have landed.

**15h40.** Hitler orders the 12th SS Panzer Division Hitlerjugend, based south of Rouen, and the Panzer Lehr based near Chartres to be deployed.

**16h00.** 1st Bn Hampshire Regt captures Le Hamel having advanced from Gold beach. 231st Bde reaches Arromanches while 69th Bde encounters resistance in the Villers le Sec/Bazenville area. At about this time Rommel is back at his HQ at La Roche-Guyon. US armour advance inland from Omaha beach. Ten minutes later 9th (UK) Bde deploy inland from Sword Beach. 185th Bde is attacked by 21st Panzer Div at Périers Ridge.

**16h30.** Caen is bombed for the second time in an effort to destroy German communication lines dependent on the bridges on the Orne river.

**17h10.** The second wave of forces from British ports commence their deployment by sea and by glider. An hour later the Canadian 9th Brigade reaches Bénvy.

**20h00.** 1st Suffolk Regt capture the Hillman fortified site at Colleville-sur-Orne above Sword Beach where German 736rd Grenadier Regiment has its HQ and an hour later Arromanches is captured allowing the deployment of the Mulberry harbours.

**21h20.** Operation Mallard begins by deploying 50 gliders escorted by RAF fighters to deploy reinforcements and equipment for the 6th British Abn Div. 185th Brigade halts at Biéville, three miles from Caen.

**22h00.** General Montgomery boards the destroyer HMS Faulknor at Portsmouth for the beaches, where he will take command of Allied troops.

**22h30.** Caen is bombed again. By the end of D-Day, 159,000 Allied forces have successfully established four sizeable beachheads and the end of the war in Europe commences. Timeline based on an article by the Daily Telegraph newspaper and original articles published by them at the time.

DW




Queen beach, Sword Area 7 June 1944  
Photo from Imperial War Museum

## Other News

### A Time to Celebrate

**Celebrate Armed Forces Day**



**You are invited to bring your own family picnic basket.**

**Live band music: from the 1960s to the present.**

**Display of military history.**

**Venue: The Labour Club, Sandys Road**

**Date / Time: 24 June / 2 PM to 7 PM**

**Raffle: Take a ticket or two!**

**In aid of the Basingstoke, Overton and District branch of the RBL**

**Free entry**

### The France and Germany Star



This medal was awarded for operational service in France, Belgium, the Netherlands or Germany from 6th June 1944 to 8th May 1945. Prior eligibility for the Atlantic Star or Air Crew Europe Star entitled the recipient to only wear the bar "France and Germany" on their previously awarded stars.

It was awarded to all British and Empire troops who participated in the campaign.

### Poppy Appeal Matters



A new CFR has been appointed for South Hants & IOW. Julie Lax has just take up her position recently.

Our North Hampshire County Community Fundraiser, Sarah Ferris, is looking for volunteers for North Hampshire (ph 0 7 7 4 2 7 6 2 9 8 8, email [SFerris@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:SFerris@britishlegion.org.uk)) is looking to recruit new PAOs for North Horndean and Lovedean. Volunteers are also required for South Hampshire.

### Forthcoming Standard Bearer Training

| <br><b>Hampshire Standard Bearer Training 2023</b>   |   |               |                                   |
|---|---|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| <br><b>EASTLEIGH</b><br><b>Pavilion on the Park</b><br>1 Kingfisher Drive, Eastleigh,<br>SO50 9LH  | <b>ASH</b><br><b>Ash Manor School</b><br>Manor Rd, Ash, Aldershot<br>GU12 6QH |               |                                   |
| Please arrive ten minutes before training starts to prepare yourself and your Standard.   |   |               |                                   |
| <b>January</b>  | <b>No Training</b>  |               | <b>Tuesday 10th</b> 19:00 - 20:00 |
| <b>February</b>   | <b>Sunday 12th</b>  | 14:00 - 15:00 | <b>Tuesday 7th</b> 19:00 - 20:00  |
| <b>March</b>  | <b>Sunday 12th</b>  | 14:00 - 15:00 | <b>Tuesday 7th</b> 19:00 - 20:00  |
| <b>April</b>  | <b>Sunday 9th</b>   | 14:00 - 15:00 | <b>Tuesday 18th</b> 19:00 - 20:00 |
| <b>May</b>  | <b>Sunday 14th</b>  | 14:00 - 15:00 | <b>Tuesday 9th</b> 19:00 - 20:00  |
| <b>June</b>   | <b>Sunday 11th</b>  | 14:00 - 15:00 | <b>Tuesday 6th</b> 19:00 - 20:00  |
| <b>July</b>   | <b>Sunday 9th</b>   | 14:00 - 15:00 | <b>Tuesday 11th</b> 19:00 - 20:00 |
| <b>August</b>   | <b>Sunday 13th</b>  | 14:00 - 15:00 | <b>Tuesday 15th</b> 19:00 - 20:00 |
| <b>September</b>  | <b>Sunday 10th</b>  | 14:00 - 15:00 | <b>Tuesday 12th</b> 19:00 - 20:00 |
| <b>October</b>  | <b>Sunday 8th</b>   | 14:00 - 15:00 | <b>Tuesday 17th</b> 19:00 - 20:00 |
| <b>November</b>   | <b>Sunday 5th</b>   | 14:00 - 15:00 | <b>Tuesday 7th</b> 19:00 - 20:00  |
| <b>December</b>   | <b>No Training</b>  |               | <b>No Training</b>                |
| <b>Please note:</b> All Standard Bearer must attend two training sessions a year, and be physically fit enough to carry the Standard, as agreed when they signed the yearly MS1 Form. |   |               |                                   |
| <b>Hampshire Parade Marshal: David Graham</b><br>E: <a href="mailto:Hampshire.ParadeMarshal@rbl.community">Hampshire.ParadeMarshal@rbl.community</a> M: 07597 455112                  |   |               |                                   |

As per RBL regulations all Standard Bearers must undergo two training sessions per year. This is so that Standard Bearers are compliant with health and safety as well as fitness requirements.

"We are defined by what we do repeatedly, therefore excellence is a habit, not an act"  
- Aristotle

## 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](http://www.BritishLegion.org.uk), County Website: <http://counties.britishlegion.org.uk/counties/hampshire>

Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/groups/hantscountyrbl/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/hantscountyrbl/) Facebook Email - [Hampshire.web@rbl.community](mailto:Hampshire.web@rbl.community)

Poppy Appeal - [www.facebook.com.poppy.HampshireRBL](http://www.facebook.com.poppy.HampshireRBL)

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](mailto:HampshireLinkDW@yahoo.com)

### ALL LEGION INQUIRIES

(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](mailto:Hampshire.Chairman@rbl.community)

Vice-Chairman Robert Bartlett [Hampshire.vicechairman@rbl.community](mailto:Hampshire.vicechairman@rbl.community)

Treasurer Ges Brown [hampshire.treasurer@rbl.community](mailto:hampshire.treasurer@rbl.community)

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

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

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

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

Annual Conference Delegate: Tim Russell

Community Fundraiser North: Sarah Ferris

Community Fundraiser South: Jackie Lax

Regional Fundraiser Manager: Clare Peppiatt

Poppy Appeal Coordinator - North: Jacki Gatfield

Poppy Appeal Coordinator - South: Pat Prior BEM QVRM

Principal Recruiting Officer: VACANT

Training Officer: VACANT

Community Support: VACANT

CCSC: VACANT

Clubs Liaison: Paul Holyoake

Communications Support: Dudley Wall

County Webmaster: Avril Mitchell [Hampshire.Web@rbl.community](mailto:Hampshire.Web@rbl.community)

Youth Officer: Steve Slack [Hampshire.CYO@rbl.community](mailto:Hampshire.CYO@rbl.community)

Events Support: VACANT

Parade Marshall: David Graham, Deputy Parade Marshall: VACANT

County Standard Bearer: Pete Pullin, [ppullin@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:ppullin@britishlegion.org.uk)

Deputy County Standard Bearer: Andy Cassidy

County Youth Standard Bearer: Amelie Neal

Ceremonial Support: David Graham, Karen Graham

County Padre: Reverend Mark Christian

Golf Officer: Rick Bourne

Membership Engagement Officer: Pete Pullin, 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.

[Errors and Omissions Excepted](#)