



HAMPSHIRE LINK

OCTOBER 2014

CHARITY NO 219279

Operation Snowdrop - with speeches and songs!



Ten British Arctic Convoy Veterans travelled to St Petersburg in Russia at the end of August under the leadership of Brockenhurst Branch secretary Mike Matthews.

Mike, who is also Vice-President of the HMS Belfast Association, served as their 'Senior Naval Officer' for *Operation Snowdrop*. The group were invited by the Russian Arctic Convoy Club to the unveiling ceremony of a memorial 'In Memory of the Arctic Convoy Sailors 1941-1945'.

The memorial, at the State Maritime Academy, was unveiled on the 73rd anniversary of the arrival of the first Arctic Convoy, codenamed Dervish, in Arkhangel in 1941.

The 77 subsequent convoys to and from the Arctic ports sustained significant losses in both ships and sailors but, despite this, still managed to deliver over 4 million tons of military and strategic goods and life-saving food supplies to help turn the tide against the Nazis.

The visit started with a wreath-laying at Piskaryovsky Cemetery where the group paid their respects to the 1.5 million victims of the 900-day Siege of Leningrad. Later a gun salute was fired from the battlements of St Peter and Paul Fortress and the adjacent stylish glass-roofed atrium was the venue for the first Reception to honour the Veterans – and the first of a salvo of speeches!

The highlight of the trip was undoubtedly the unveiling ceremony the following day conducted with great precision and well bracketed by more speeches.

The striking memorial shows three sailors in arctic clothing on the bow of a warship: one British, one Russian and one American. Between lunch and dinner the group visited the Krasin Icebreaker (built in Newcastle in 1917) along with HMS Belfast the only other ship left afloat to have participated in the convoys.

The Veterans lined up by the guardrail and, memorably, gave voice to well-loved, nostalgic WW2 songs. The evening reception was held at The Governor of St Petersburg's State Residence ... and another salvo of speeches, delightfully lightened by some virtuoso playing by the young violinist Litsa Tunnah who was part of the visiting group.

Monday, September 1 was the first day of the school year in St Petersburg and so the convoy veterans were scattered across as many schools as possible. They were impressed by the youngsters' knowledge of, and respect for, the generation who had defended and assisted them during 'The Great Patriotic War'.

An afternoon spent afloat on the River Neva provided an appreciation of why Peter the Great chose to site his capital city where he did. The British Consul-General hosted the third and final evening Reception. The highlight of mixed salvos of British and Russian speeches and songs was the faultless rendition of 'Maggie May' by veteran Arthur. The youthful vivacity of the Veterans, all in their 90s, was in evidence as they danced, sang and took stairs in their stride.



BRANCH NEWS

Bordon helps the wounded to battle back

It has been a busy summer for the Bordon & District Branch which began with the successful organisation of the County Poppy walk, involved the staging of a major fundraising event in support of the Battle Back Centre and a swim marathon for the Chairman's Centenary Fund and the County Welfare Fund.

The emergency services, hot air balloons and helicopters attracted plenty of support for the Battle Back Centre fundraiser. "The money we have raised will go towards the £50 million that the Legion has pledged for our recovery centres which help our injured service people," says Branch Welfare Representative Steve Johnson. "Our Battle Back Centre gets them fit again to return to the services or train for Civvy Street."

Ten members of the Army Cadet Force and four adults, including members of the Bordon Branch, took to the water of the Bordon Garrison Pool and completed a 20km relay which clocked up no less than 800 lengths.

£100 was raised for the Chairman's Centenary Fund, £250 for the Hampshire County Welfare Fund and £275 for Cadet charities. Army Cadets, under the command of S/Sgt Shaun White, presented the money raised to the Bordon President, Don Morrison, who accepted the money on behalf of the Royal British Legion and thanked them warmly for their efforts.

Otterbourne collectors recognised



Back row L to R: Brenda Noke, Wayne Dunlop, Pearl Glenister, Mary Davis and Dick Oldham.
Front row L to R: Daphne Cox and Valerie Etteridge

The loyal service of seven long serving Otterbourne Poppy Appeal collectors was recognised by their Branch on September 14.

Wayne Dunlop, Pearl Glenister and Dick Oldham received certificates acknowledging their five years of collecting, Daphne Cox and Mary Davis received ten year certificates while those of Valerie Etteridge and Brenda Noke acknowledged their twenty years of service.

County Committee member Norman Brown, watched by Community Fundraiser Clare Peppiatt, presented the certificates to the proud recipients.

Around a dozen Otterbourne collectors focus on door-to-door visits and get considerable support from Southern Water, local businesses, public houses and garden centres. Already those awarded long-serving certificates will have laid the hard earned documents in a safe place and will be preparing themselves for another busy Poppy fortnight.

You're never too old to learn

With Remembrancetide fast approaching Branch Standard Bearers will once again be in the spotlight at church services and wreath laying ceremonies. "A poor Standard Bearer can really let us down," says County Parade Marshal Steve Forward. Steve runs regular Standard Bearer's Schools but few Branches support this important training. "We try to ensure that when they are on parade they look the part, are properly dressed, march correctly and are able to do the drills."

Hampshire County Standard Bearer Dave Graham and Karen Pearson who carries the Standard for the Women's Section are amongst the best in the business and maintain their very high standards by attending the regular training sessions. New Standard Bearers and those that haven't attended a refresher session for some time are particularly welcome at the 'Schools' where Steve, Dave and Karen would be delighted to help those who are keen to improve.

The final training schools of the year will take place at 2.00pm on Sunday, October 12 at the Hampshire Fire & Rescue HQ, Leigh Road, Eastleigh and 7.00pm on Monday, October 13 at the TA Drill Hall, Bath Road in Lymington.

County officers are still hoping to find a location for a training school in the north of the county.

Information about 2015 Standard Bearer's Schools will be posted in future editions of this newsletter.



Standards parade for Earl Mountbatten

The Milford-on-Sea Branch of the Royal British Legion was invited to Romsey early in September for the Earl Mountbatten Memorial Service. Branch member William Reed attended and enjoyed the service in the Abbey and was particularly impressed by the avenue of County and Branch standards that formed a guard of honour.

William's photograph shows County Standard Bearer David Graham leading Standards from across the County towards the Romsey RBL Club where light refreshments were served after the service.



Thanks from the Earl Mountbatten Memorial Branch



The Members of the Earl Mountbatten Memorial Branch extend their thanks to everyone that attended their annual Memorial Service at Romsey Abbey on Sunday, September 7 and in particular the very smart Standard Bearers who made the event so special to the Branch.

All members of the Branch also remain members of their 'parent' Branch in Hampshire and are kept busy with remembrance ceremonies in their own district in November.

For this reason The Earl Mountbatten Memorial Service celebrates the lives of those who died for their country and the life of Lord Louis on the first Sunday in September each year. The service marks the anniversary of his death in August 1979.

Four meetings of the branch are held annually around the county and they are always open for visitors from branches.

The Earl Mountbatten Memorial Branch welcomes any member from a Hampshire Branch who wishes to join it.

Applicants are required to fill in the new green MS4/13 form for 'EARL MOUNTBATTEN MEMORIAL BRANCH' and Branch number 'BR 1857' and post it to the secretary - Brian C N Soffe, Greystones, Barney Hayes Lane, Cadnam, Southampton SO40 2ND

If you are on the web then you can see more about the EMMB at rbl-mountbatten.org.uk

Their next meeting is the Annual General Meeting at the Romsey RBL Club at 2.40pm on Saturday, October 24. Anyone is welcome to join and sit in on the meetings.

THIS MONTH'S BRIGHT IDEA

Houghton & District PAO Angela McMeekin tells us that some years ago, on a particularly cold November morning after the annual Wreath Laying, a small group of members and friends decided to retire to a local hotel for lunch. They had such a pleasant time that they returned the following year with double the number. And year on year the number has grown until now between 60-70 gather for their 'Remembrance Sunday Lunch'.

Remembrance and Comradeship - worth a try?

COUNTY NEWS

'Pony' rides in



"really enjoying it"

Helping the Royal British Legion is nothing new to Dave Moore. Better known as 'Pony', he has been the Poppy Appeal Organiser at HMS Collingwood for a number of years.

Dave joined the Hampshire County staff in August and is now working alongside Clare Peppiatt as Community Fundraiser North.

For far too long Clare has been working single-handedly across a county double the size of many other Legion counties. It has now been decided to split Hampshire in two with Dave serving the north of the county while Clare will continue working with the area between Hampshire's two major conurbations - Portsmouth and Southampton - and with the Isle of Wight.

Dave was born and bred in County Durham (now Tyne & Wear) before spending 22 years with the Royal Navy. More recently he has been lecturing in communication at Collingwood as well as helping the Legion as a PAO.

"I wanted to do more," says Dave, "and when the job was advertised I applied."

Winning a Fareham Borough Council Volunteer Award certainly helped his cause and now, as we approach Remembrancetide, he has been thrown into the deep end.

"I'm really enjoying it," he adds. "I'm still trying to find my feet and busy establishing as many contacts as I can."

He is master-minding this year's Poppy Appeal Launch on the Watercress Line at Ropley on October 24 and is involved in an exciting World War I initiative at Aldershot Football Club.

"I have loads of ideas for fundraising," claims our new recruit. "I'm taking it step by step and training Clare as I go along," a comment that drew a broad grin from the hugely experienced Clare Peppiatt who was sitting on the other side of the table.

A polite reminder

The new Area Pop-In Advice and Information Centre is open between:
10.00am and 4.00pm, Monday to Friday.

The postal address is:
104 Above Bar Street, Southampton, SO14 7DT

The telephone number is:
0808 802 8080

Hampshire Royal British Legion members are, of course, most welcome to pop in and say hello but if you wish to see Steph, our County Secretary, or any other member of the Area Team you are advised to make an appointment. As an Area team they often have to travel into Dorset or over to the Isle of Wight and may not always be available. They are also required to book a meeting room.

EVENTS DIARY

What's On.....

11 October 2014

Poppy Appeal Dinner & Dance
Lyndhurst Community Hall
7.30pm for 8
Tickets: £23.50
Further details: 02380 284134

12 October 2014

Standard Bearer's School
Fire & Rescue HQ, Leigh Road, Eastleigh,
2.00pm
Further details: 02380 693028

12 October 2014

Earl Mountbatten Memorial Branch
Annual General Meeting
Romsey RBL Club
2.40pm
Further details: 02380 812419

13 October 2014

Standard Bearer's School
TA Drill Hall, Bath Road, Lymington
7.00pm
Further details: 02380 693028

24 October 2014

Hampshire County Poppy Launch
Ropley Railway Station
Further details: DMoore@britishlegion.org.uk

28 October 2014

Southampton Poppy Day
West Quay Shopping Centre, Southampton
10.00am to 4.00pm
Further details: CPeppiatt@britishlegion.org.uk

2 November 2014

Eastleigh Festival of Remembrance
The Point, Eastleigh
7.30pm
Further details: 02380 251156

07 November 2014

Hampshire Festival of Remembrance,
Southampton Guildhall
Adults £15 Concessions £12.50
7.30pm
Further details: CPeppiatt@britishlegion.org.uk

09 November 2014

Hampshire Riders Branch Remembrance Service
Royal Navy Memorial, Southsea Common
11.00pm
Further details: 07771 738752

14 November 2014

1930s/1940s Evening
Empire Hall, Totton Conservative club
7.30pm Tickets £20
Further details: 02380 863618

VETERAN'S LUNCHES

Have you booked your place?



The Miller's Collection of Inns is once again offering those who have served a complimentary meal in one of their high class restaurants as a token of their appreciation. There are just a few places remaining at the Blue Partridge in Arlesford and it is anticipated that the places at The Peat Spade in Longstock, The Anchor in Lower Foyle and The Queen's in Newbury will soon be taken. If you wish to share a wonderful meal and a few drinks with other Veterans let your Branch secretary know as soon as possible.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION – LYNDHURST BRANCH



**'Poppy Appeal'
Dinner Dance &
Prize Draw**



**Saturday 11th October 2014
7.30 For 8.00 pm
Lyndhurst Community Centre**

**Open to all! – Join us for a night of fine food,
good music and fund raising**

**3-course Dinner Dance
Live band - SPECTRUM**

Only £23.50 per person

Tickets available from:

**+ Lyndhurst Workmen's Club
+ The Community Centre
+ 02380 284134**

Formal (Black Tie Optional)

Closing date for ticket sales 27 September 2014

All profits will go to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

EVERY MAN REMEMBERED

Sat 15th Nov

Join us at **Milford on Sea Club** for a fun
filled night of REMEMBRANCE &
fundraising in honour of our HEROES
past and present

6pm: Early- bird start

Nostalgic Sing-A-Long with
THE DIAMONDS

Children's WW1 Fancy Dress Competition

Raffle | Comedy | WW1 Stories

9pm: GRAND AUCTION

All proceeds going to RBL

Every Man Remembered Campaign

Live music and celebration till close

Supporting Military Charities
Presented by Milford on Sea Club

FREE ENTRY
Non- Members
Welcomed



**EVERY MAN
REMEMBERED** 
www.everymanremembered.org 

REMEMBRANCE

WRBL members at the Royal Albert Hall

Two women who have given long and loyal service to the Royal British Legion have been selected to take part in the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday, November 8.

Lee-on-Solent Branch secretary Pat Prior MEB, QVRM and Hampshire Women's Section secretary Elaine Micklewright will parade with the group representing the nation's Poppy Collectors during the televised performance in front of our patron, Her Majesty the Queen.

Karen Pearson will also be there, carrying the Standard of the Hampshire Women's Royal British Legion, as will her fiancé, Dave Graham, who will be marching with the Hampshire County Standard.



The poster features a blue background with a silhouette of a soldier standing in a field of red poppies. At the top, the Royal British Legion logo is displayed. The text 'HAMPSHIRE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION' is centered above the main title 'FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE'. Below the title, the event details are listed: 'THE O2 SOUTHAMPTON - 7TH NOVEMBER 2014', 'DOORS OPEN 6.30PM. SHOW STARTS 7.15PM', and ticket prices 'ADULTS £15 CONCESSION £12.50'. The featured acts are 'MILITARY BANDS', 'SOUTHAMPTON PHILHARMONIC CHOIR', and 'SU PHILHARMONIC CHOIR & MORE!'. Two royal crests are shown above the date '1914-2014'. At the bottom, contact information for the box office is provided.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

HAMPSHIRE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE

THE O2 SOUTHAMPTON - 7TH NOVEMBER 2014
DOORS OPEN 6.30PM. SHOW STARTS 7.15PM

ADULTS £15 CONCESSION £12.50

FEATURING MUSIC BY
MILITARY BANDS
SOUTHAMPTON PHILHARMONIC CHOIR
SU PHILHARMONIC CHOIR & MORE!

1914-2014

Box Office Customer Enquiries: 023 8063 2601
o2guildhallsouthampton.boxoffice@livenation.co.uk

STANDARD BEARERS

Will you be attending?

Branch standards are invited to attend the following events. For further information please contact the County Parade Marshal, Steve Forward, on 023 80693028 or email stevemo@stevemo.plus.com

12 October 2014 Standard Bearers School, Hampshire Fire & Rescue HQ, Leigh Road, Eastleigh 1400hrs

13 October 2014 Standard Bearers School, TA Drill Hall, Bath Road, Lymington 1900hrs

25 October 2014 Mayors Concert, Winchester Guildhall.

01 November 2014 Christchurch Festival of Remembrance, Christchurch Priory, 1900hrs

02 November 2014 Eastleigh Festival of Remembrance, The Point, Eastleigh. Branch and County Standards required.

07 November 2014 Hampshire Festival of Remembrance, Southampton Guildhall. Timings etc will be confirmed when they are received. Branch and County Standards required.

NATIONAL

THE ROYAL CHARTER

We have been asked to draw to your attention that the 2003 Royal Charter of Incorporation and Schedules – Version 9, dated July 31, 2014, is now available on the Membership page of The Royal British Legion website (<http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/membership/members-information/royal-charter>).

This version incorporates the Charter Motions carried at Annual Conference 2014 and subsequently supported by the Board of Trustees at its meeting on June 19, 2014, including consequential changes to the Governing Regulations. The change to Article 3 (e) has not yet been ratified by the Privy Council so is not included.

Given the prohibitive cost of issuing the Royal Charter in hard copy (some £7,000 plus postage), this latest version will only be available on the Legion web site.

LEST WE FORGET

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of these members.

Mr A J Downer - Park Gate

Mr K Ratel - Southampton

Mr R Squibb - Copythorne & District

Mrs P Stewart - Eastleigh, Chandlers Ford & District

JUST FOR FUN

We thank the secretary of Bishops Waltham & District, Ruth Harrison, who offered a wordsearch for this month's edition of *Hampshire Link*. Twenty words or phrases familiar to Legion members travel left to right, right to left, up and down and diagonally within the grid below. The hidden words are listed below the grid.

It may well test your patience but we hope you enjoy the challenge.

R	P	C	M	H	O	Z	B	R	A	N	C	H	E	S	G
O	E	J	W	E	T	N	X	D	M	A	I	U	T	W	S
Y	E	M	T	H	D	O	E	T	U	V	B	O	W	P	A
A	D	E	E	G	J	A	A	R	M	Y	K	T	S	L	X
L	V	E	N	M	W	R	L	O	Y	I	W	F	E	H	W
A	K	T	L	E	B	Q	E	Y	R	O	T	U	R	O	W
I	A	I	D	M	W	R	E	A	T	H	S	G	V	J	O
R	L	N	A	B	D	G	A	L	J	L	E	G	I	O	N
F	L	G	X	E	V	S	N	N	W	R	Y	I	C	P	E
O	S	S	F	R	E	H	K	Y	C	Z	C	B	E	M	Q
R	E	T	U	S	O	A	P	D	G	E	J	L	S	F	G
C	H	K	S	H	L	P	X	B	R	I	T	I	S	H	V
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C	R	B	M	P	A	R	A	D	E	S	Q	E	D	T	U
C	O	A	D	G	J	L	X	W	E	L	F	A	R	E	V

Remembrancetide
The
Royal
British
Legion

Wreaths
Crosses
Branches
Poppy
WW One

Welfare
Membership
Army
Navy
Royal Air Force

WW Two
Parades
Medal
Services
Meetings

SEND US YOUR NEWS

We would like to thank all those that have contributed copy, photographs, posters and the wordsearch to this month's newsletter. It is very much appreciated. You have been busy over the last month and we wish you well for the busy Remembrancetide period ahead. We hope you have a troublefree and fruitful collection. If you do anything particularly interesting, creative or different, please let us know.

We are always eager to receive photographs and articles about your recent or forthcoming Branch activities. These can then be considered for inclusion in the monthly Hampshire County newsletter. Please forward this information to:

johnas@hotmail.co.uk

ALL OTHER ENQUIRIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE CONTACT CENTRE ON

0808 8028080