



HAMPSHIRE LINK

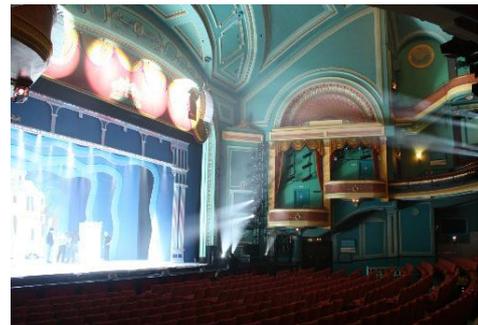
APRIL/MAY 2015

CHARITY NO 219279

Make tracks to the Mayflower

Hampshire's 2015 Festival of Remembrance will be staged in the largest theatre on the south coast, a major coup for Community Fundraiser Clare Peppiatt.

Clare has been in negotiations with Southampton's Mayflower Theatre for some time and a planning group is now busy preparing for this very special event which is certain to build on the success of the last two Hampshire Festivals.



Such is the commitment of the theatre team that they are already promoting this year's Festival of Remembrance and the Box Office has already sold tickets in their 2,300 seat auditorium. The Mayflower presents an incredible programme of spectacular touring productions; from West End musicals, dance, opera, drama and ballet to comedy and Hampshire Royal British Legion is fortunate to have secured a date in this programme.

Requests have been made for a leading military band and a celebrity compere and the Festival will feature exciting new entertainers and some very special guests.

A small team will soon meet to lay the foundations for the production and another group are preparing invitations for the County's special guests and planning the VIP reception. A separate element of Clare's Festival working group will focus on advertising, press and promotion and sponsorship.

Once the final line-up is announced it is anticipated there will be a huge demand for tickets.

Lee-on-Solent Branch has already booked a coach and obtained their tickets for the Festival and branches are advised to consider similar options. Filling a large coach may not always be realistic but hiring a minibus or local community bus may be feasible and smaller branches may prefer to transport members, family and friends in a number of cars.

We commend the Hampshire Royal British Legion 2015 Festival of Remembrance to you and advise that Branches book tickets (from £16.50 to £21.50) as early as possible from the Mayflower Theatre Box Office at the times listed below;

By telephone (02380 711811)

Monday-Thursday	9.30am-8.30pm
Friday	10.00am-8.30pm
Saturday	9.30am-8.30pm
Sunday**	4.30pm-8.30pm

In Person

Monday-Thursday	9.30am-6.00pm
Friday	10.00am-6.00pm
Saturday	9.30am-6.00pm
Sunday**	4.30pm-8.00pm

(** Only if there is a performance)

BRANCH NEWS

Brockenhurst honours the ANZACS



The Brockenhurst Branch marked the centenary of the start of the Gallipoli Landings with a weekend of activities. The anniversary was particularly significant in the New Forest village for, although none of them landed on the first morning of the conflict, six men from Brockenhurst died on the peninsular during the subsequent campaign.

Their memory was honoured at a Dawn Service at the village War Memorial with a Eulogy and Prayers given by the Vicar, Neil Smart, and Kemal Ataturk's moving 1934 words spoken as an Exhortation by Royal British Legion Chairman, Tim Thomas, who also laid a wreath. The commemoration continued in a 'local' with a welcome tot of rum and a Gunfire Breakfast, a tradition borrowed from the ANZAC comrades.

The following afternoon Brockenhurst's traditional annual ANZAC Commemoration Service was held at the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery in St Nicholas Churchyard. There lie the 93 New Zealanders and one Australian who died of wounds or illness while being treated in No 1 New Zealand General Hospital on the adjacent Tile Barn site between 1916 and 1919. Over 200 people including many more New Zealanders joined in the Service and paid their respects.

Underlining the importance of this site to the New Zealanders the Deputy Secretary of their Ministry of Defence, Mr Tony Lynch, and the Head of the New Zealand Defence Staff in London, Brigadier Antony Hayward, were present. The Australian Defence Force was represented by Lieutenant Karleah Fitzpatrick RAN and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission by Mr Barry Murphy.

During the Service the Vicar spoke movingly about three of those buried who had survived the Gallipoli campaign only to succumb to wounds received after they had arrived on the Western Front in 1916. In a poignant act of remembrance young uniformed groups laid posies on all the graves.

Bowling them over in Basingstoke

The Basingstoke, Overton & District Branch are teaming up with other local organisations, including the Civic Office, for a Poppy Skittles Night on Friday, May 8.

Their partnership with the Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council continues on Monday, June 23 when they join together for the Armed Forces Flag Raising event which takes place at the Civic Offices in Basingstoke. The Royal British Legion and Council will be supported by other veteran organisations and the Mayor of Basingstoke.

To raise awareness of the Royal British Legion and the Poppy Appeal members of the Basingstoke Branch will be meeting members of the public in Festival Place on Sunday, June 21 and Monday, June 22 and the weekend of June 27 and 28.

Lyndhurst shows the way

The recently re-formed Lyndhurst Branch has gone into 2015 determined to build on the success of last year. In 2000 the branch closed due to a lack of support and responsibility for Remembrance Day was passed to the Lyndhurst Scout and Guide Troops. The following year the present Chairman, Adrian Wiltshire was challenged by the Parish Council to re-form the Lyndhurst Royal British Legion branch.

The neighbouring Copythorne Branch, Lyndhurst's new secretary Dee Faulkner-White and Poppy Appeal Organiser Sarah Matthews-O'Toole provided much needed support, enabling the Lyndhurst and District Branch to re-form and become fully operational in May 2012.

In just over 18 months the branch has won a National Award, having recruited some 60 members and raised well over £10,000 pounds for the Poppy Appeal. The Hampshire County also recognised its achievements with an award presented at the County Conference.

Remembrance Day is once again organised by the Royal British Legion and regularly attended by Army and Navy representatives, two bands, local clubs and organisations and has had an RAF fly past. Alec Roberts, who is a junior member of the branch and still at school, plays Reveille and the Last Post and there is also a renewed public attendance from the village.

Fundraising events have included an Annual Poppy Dinner Dance, Burns Night, a Fly Past by the Red Arrows after the Bournemouth Airshow, Brass Band Concerts and various stalls at local events. This continues to attract a trickle of new members.

Branch members are also in the process of researching the names on the Lyndhurst War Memorial and the Lyndhurst Branch chairman would be delighted to hear from anyone who can provide information about these men.

Cup winning is no joke



An impressive revival is underway at Farnborough, the new branch committee staging a well-supported Poppy Appeal evening on April 25 featuring the excellent Farnborough RBL Concert Band.

Just under 50 branch members and friends attended the event, the first of a number of social events the committee are considering to complement their regular meetings and fundraising activities.

The 35-strong band presented a lively and varied musical programme which had toes tapping all evening. Branch secretary and PAO Jacki Gatfield led a team of helpers who had adorned the main hall of the Farnborough Club with Union flags and attractive table decorations.

Refreshments were laid out on each table and branch chairman Steve Gatfield (standing right) organised a well-supported raffle. Dave Moore, Community Fundraiser (standing left) received a very warm welcome and before the band's final number it was announced that, having raised £59,000 for the Poppy Appeal in 2014, Farnborough had already topped £60,000 this current year.

This is a great tribute to Jacki Gatfield, her team of Poppy Appeal collectors and the generosity of the Farnborough public. A strong social programme is the key to retaining Branch members, raising the profile of the Legion and generating much-needed money for our welfare programme through the Poppy Appeal. Farnborough Branch have got the perfect balance and are reaping the rewards.

The Worthies are bouncing back

Royal British Legion stalwarts John Sweeting and Tony Dowland have been working hard in recent months to restore The Worthies & District to full branch status.

The original branch was formed in 1931 but as its membership dwindled it was agreed that it should become a sub-branch of Winchester in 2011.

It now seems that The Worthies can once again move forward as a branch in its own right and to test the water Tony Dowland met with the County Chairman in February and called a further meeting March 31 to gauge the support that might be forthcoming.

The result was encouraging and those attending discussed the preferred frequency of meetings, fundraising for the Legion's welfare work, fees, possible activities and visits and, of course, it was important to ascertain whether there would be sufficient support to form a branch committee.

Should the branch re-form, finding a meeting venue will not be a problem. It has been offered a really well-appointed room in The Worthies Sports & Social Club in Lovedon Lane and the opportunity to use other facilities within the building should they wish to run dances, dinners or other social events.

A second meeting has been called for Tuesday, May 5 and Messrs. Sweeting and Downing hope to carry the restoration of The Worthies & District Branch another stage further. We wish them well.

COUNTY NEWS

Giving a voice to veterans

We were delighted to hear that Tristan Nichols had been appointed as the Legion's Public Relations Officer South and he has now been in post just over a month.

Tristan is tasked with monitoring not only what we do within the County but what each of our branches does that is newsworthy and assist and advise us on the best ways to spread those stories.

Obviously, at the moment, Tristan is eager to collect VE Day memories from veterans or civilians that lived through the 1945 celebrations on the Home Front - basically anyone who remembers the occasion. He would welcome your thoughts and those of your fellow members.

The VE Day 'memories' could be from former servicemen who were serving at sea, on the ground or in the air or from people with ties to the Royal British Legion and their family members. Any help would be greatly appreciated!

Tristan may well need to do brief interviews (nothing too taxing at all) and, with your consent of course, they will be made available to the media. If you have any VE Day memories please contact Tristan on 07920 378592 or email tnichols@britishlegion.org.uk



Clusters on the road again

Following the successful Cluster Meeting in Farnborough in February, the second in the series took place on March 31 at the Royal British Legion's Old Basing Club.

County Vice Chairman Bernie Keane led the discussions which ranged from ceremonial, communication, events and the issues of struggling branches to recruitment and welfare.

This meeting was attended by offices of branches and clubs in the north west of Hampshire and the next scheduled meeting will be held at the Andover Club on Monday, June 1 at 7.30pm.

Officers of the eight branches and two clubs in the Andover area will be receiving invitations in the next week or two.

Volunteer Visits

Headquarters staff at Haig House have now informed us that Branch Visitor Volunteer returns will be collated quarterly rather than monthly.

Branches should now have completed and returned the 'Expression of Interest in Volunteer Roles' issued in September of last year and responded to the March 6 request from our Membership Support Officer, Steph Harris, about branch visit data. The *Form VV3 Branch Return*, covering the second quarter, should have been passed to the Area Office by April 22.

There is still considerable confusion about home and hospital visiting by volunteers. We are hoping to run a half-day Welfare Seminar in June and Branch Welfare Representatives will receive invitations when the date has been confirmed.

Consider a Course



The Branch Treasurer's Course held at the Area office in March was extremely successful but, of the 12 participants, only four came from Hampshire and one of those was our County Treasurer Brian Soffe who proved once again that you are never too old or too clever to learn.

We welcomed treasurers from Yorkshire, Wales and the Midlands on the course so clearly distance is no object for those eager to improve their skills.

The Area Office also played host to an Independent Examiners Course last month. On both courses the quality of training was excellent.

There is a County Conference Committee Course in Southampton on the weekend of July 14 / 15 which we hope will be peppered with attendees from Hampshire.

The Membership Support Officer is able to provide a full list of available courses on request so if you feel it is important that you increase your skillbase in key areas of your Branch's work please contact Steph on sharris@britishlegion.org.uk

Almonisation

The Hampshire County Welfare Fund was established in 2002 and by January 2014 had helped, through the County Welfare Team, 1,020 cases granting £336,249 - an average of £330 per case.

The Welfare system was then total re-organised and the help that this County provided was transferred to the Welfare Department at Head Office in London which now oversees all cases.

Additional help given by Regimental Associations, employers and the Branches, through the County Welfare Fund, is known as 'ALMONISATION'. Difficulties were encountered within the new system and the County was unable to make any grants throughout 2014. The Fund, therefore, increased steadily throughout the year to some £48,000.

By February 2015 the system was fully working and now Hampshire has been able to contribute the sum of £45,389.98 to assist (i.e Almonise) a total of 273 cases. We now have an almost empty purse.

Branches in Hampshire have been extremely generous in supporting the Welfare Fund over the years and we would like to thank the following Branches who have contributed this year:

Bordon - Brockenhurst - Droxford - Earl Mountbatten Memorial - Havant - Lovedean & Horndean - Milford on Sea - Netley Abbey & Hamble - Park Gate - Ringwood - Southampton - Totton & Eling.

We wish to extend an invitation to ALL Branches and Clubs in Hampshire to assist the County Welfare Fund in its main objective - "to relieve need, suffering, hardship and distress" to those in the ex-service and serving Forces community. No contribution is too small and none would be too large. We look forward to your generosity.

Please help our MSO

The County Committee are now extremely concerned about the number of branches with outstanding Financial Accounts and incomplete MS1 forms.

The accounts from Gosport and Wickham are still outstanding and the secretaries of the following Branches are asked to liaise with the Membership Support Officer about outstanding MS1's:

Bishops Waltham, Botley, Damerham & Western Downland,, Dummer, Eastleigh, Herriard & Lasham, Portsmouth South, Preston Candover, St Mary Bourne, Twyford and Woodgreen & Breamore.

Just a ferry ride away

Isle of Wight County is holding its Armed Forces Day event on Saturday, June 20. It gets underway at 11.00am with the Flag raising Ceremony at North Walk, Ryde and continues in Appley Park, the many events including an aerobatic display, The Bunker Girls (a '40's style singing duo) accompanied by the 'Lindy Hoppers' a troupe of '40's style dancers and Proms in the park.

Veterans and Cadets will parade with the salute taken at 1.00pm by the Lord Lieutenant Maj. General White. There are static displays from the Army Reservists, the emergency services and ex-Military Associations. The day closes at 7.00pm following a Sunset Ceremony. This is a free event and everyone is welcome. Hover travel have offered 50% discount on fares for veterans travelling across the Solent to attend the event and those wishing to take up this offer would need to show their Armed Forces Veterans badge.

Special feature: The Collingwood Battalion

How often do we unearth a box that has lain dormant in a spare bedroom, attic or shed for many years, lifted the lid and discovered a 'hidden treasure'?

That happened recently at HMS Collingwood in Gosport.

The Collingwood Heritage Collection receives regular donations of documents, photographs and artefacts from former Service personnel, organisations and members of the public. Time pressures often mean that these items are placed in store until they can be studied, assessed, catalogued and displayed.

Heritage Collection volunteers, led by Clive Kidd, Lt. Cdr (Retd), recently discovered a short history of The Collingwood Battalion (Royal Naval Division) in the Dardanelles written by Lieut. Stanley Geary, R.M.

The frontispiece carries a quote from the despatch of General Ian Hamilton, Commander in Chief of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force at Gallipoli. It states, "On this occasion (4th June, 1915) the Collingwood Battalion was practically destroyed."



Collingwood volunteer
John Wise with the
new discovery

In 1914 the Collingwood's suffered great losses at the relief of Whybreck in Belgium, the men killed, interned or taken prisoner. Only 22 men returned to England out of a total of 700. Then, in the space of 30 minutes on June 4, 1915, the Collingwood Battalion RND lost a further 16 Officers and 500 men at the 3rd Battle of Krithia in Gallipoli.

The Royal Naval Division's official history states:

"At a quarter past twelve, in long extended line, the Collingwoods moved forward as steadily as if on parade. But just before reaching the Turkish trenches they were caught by a murderous fire from their right flank. Practically the whole battalion was annihilated. The few survivors with parties of the Howe and Hood, pushed steadily forward, and captured the brigade's second objective. The ill-fated Collingwood had literally ceased to exist."

In the conclusion to his history Lieut. Geary admits, "the result can only be described as tragic." The appendices to the document contain biographies and photographs of the Officers of Collingwood killed or missing and the listings of all other ranks by No, Name, Rank, their fate and also their personal addresses in England.

The lion's share of these addresses indicates that the men enlisted into the Battalion came from Yorkshire, Northumberland, County Durham and Scotland. That said, there will be those currently living in Hampshire who may have descendants who served with the Collingwood Battalion during World War I and they may wish to find out more about these men.

This is an important resource for those trying to trace ancestors and Clive Kidd and his colleague John Wise of the Heritage Collection at HMS Collingwood are happy to field questions from genuine enquirers and search for names listed within the appendix.

Clive Kidd can be contacted on 01329 332535 or by e-mail at cickidd@waitrose.com. John Wise can be reached on 02392 251635 or via info@radars.org.uk

POPPY APPEAL

Walking is good for you

Just a timely reminder that the 2015 County Poppy Walk is only five weeks away.

The Bordon & District Branch are hosting the walk at the Alice Holt Forest Centre near Farnham on June 7 and if you haven't already received a sponsorship form from your Branch secretary yet it's time to do so and start approaching sponsors. Once again all monies collected go to the Poppy Appeal. Can we also remind you that Alice Holt has a number of walks which can cater for all abilities.

1. 1km Habitat trail, a family walk with giant sculptures on which children can climb
2. 1km Willows Green Trail, an attractive trail with one steep section and optional short cut
3. 2km Easy Access Trail, suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs, with a shortcut if required
This is the Gruffalo trail that takes in a variety of woodland and there is a leaflet for children
4. 4km Lodge Pond, 'an off-road' trail to the pond. It can be muddy when wet but is a beautiful trail.
5. 5km cycle trail around the perimeter of the forest. It can be walked and has a number of hills.

We are hoping that branches in the north and middle of the County support the Poppy Walk as well as Branches in the south did when it was staged in the New Forest. It will be a great day for families so members are invited to bring their children, grandchildren and friends ... and it's an ideal location for a picnic!

Sponsor forms and a poster for the Hampshire County Poppy Walk are attached separately.

Off to the Tower with them ...

A merry band of Hampshire Poppy Appeal Organisers piled onto a 60-seater coach, en route to the Tower of London. The trip was to reward our PAO's for the energy and enthusiasm they had shown throughout the year, enabling Hampshire to amass almost £1.5m for the Poppy Appeal.

A Yeoman Warder took the group on a guided tour of the historic London landmark, most of his jokes as old as the fortress walls and towers themselves. The Byward Tower, Traitor's Gate, the Bloody Tower, the site of the Block, the Chapel and the White Tower were all on the itinerary ... oh, and of course, the Yeoman Warder's Bar.

After a quick drink and the purchase of some raffle tickets it was off to witness the Ceremony of the Keys. At exactly 9.53pm, the Chief Yeoman Warder, dressed in Tudor Watchcoat, met the military escort and secured the main gates of the Tower. The ceremony concluded with the Last Post which proved an experience in its own right. Ask someone who went on the trip!!

Then it was back to the bar, a fish and chip supper and the raffle with some really good prizes (all engraved with images of the Tower of London) - a whiskey glass, four wine glasses, a compact, bottles of wine, key rings, notepads ... but no cuddly toy!

After another drink or two the group left the Tower at 11.30pm for the long journey home which ended a little after 2.00am. Some weary travellers but a good time was had by all.

EVENTS

Attractive events to attract new members

At its first meeting of the year your new County Committee agreed to establish six Working Groups charged with addressing Legion activities across Hampshire that cause concern, could be improved or require County support.

Two of those groups have now deliberated and will put a series of proposals to the next County Committee in June.

The Events Working Group – John Smith (County Chairman), Mick Mills (Aldershot) and Brian Godwin (Eastleigh) - met on March 16 and discussed how branches without a social or events programme could be encouraged and inspired to stage small events for their members, what simple events could be organised, whether some branches could be assisted improving the quality of their events, how branches could be encouraged to support events of neighbouring branches and what should be done to increase the number of large scale events staged by the County and/or the larger branches.

The Working Group are to recommend that County and Branch communication should be improved and that more detailed, high quality information about events should be made available. Accepting that small branches have particular difficulties it will be suggested that pairs or clusters of branches share ideas and resources and organise joint events that will benefit camaraderie. It was also recognised that the County Committee should investigate events aimed at the non-Legion community which would raise the profile and raise large sums for the Poppy Appeal.

Southampton's VE Day Street Party

The Hampshire Royal British Legion will be at the heart of two big events staged to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of VE Day. In partnership with Southampton City Council they have organised two free events in the city's Guildhall Square.

On Friday, May 8 at 9.00pm, as part of the national celebrations a large metal Beacon, with its burner head in the shape of a V for 'victory', will be lit to mark the anniversary. County Officers and standards from the three Southampton branches will hear a World War II veteran and a young cadet read a special tribute before the VE Day Beacon Lighting Ceremony.

On the following morning church bells will ring out across Southampton at 11 o'clock to celebrate the anniversary and during the afternoon around 200 veterans will gather in the Guildhall Square for a 70th Anniversary 'Street Party'.

Men and women from the City who served in the Armed Forces during World War II and/or were citizens who lived through the dreadful Southampton Blitz in November and December 1940 will bring a party picnic and make full use of the Hampshire Women's Section Tea Tent while they listen to the 17-piece Paul McKenna 'Victory' Swing Band, two magnificent vocalists in 1940's costume and a Trad. Jazz Band.

The Mayor of Southampton will welcome the guests to the event, there will be information stands, members of the Armed Forces on hand to lead the dancing and should there be any tables to spare, those who have not pre-booked for the 'Street Party' will be given the opportunity to join in with the fun which runs from 1.00pm until 4.00pm.

EVENTS DIARY

What's On.....

7 May 2015

General Election

8 May 2015

Victory in Europe Day
Beacon Lighting Ceremony and Tribute
Southampton Guildhall Square
9.00pm
Details: 01794 323487

9 May 2015

V.E.Day Parade through Aldershot
A Parade, Fun Day and Music
10.00am – 5.00pm
Details: Rushmoor District Council

9 May 2015

'Victory' Street Party
Southampton City Council & Hampshire RBL
Party for 200 World War II veterans
Guildhall Square, Southampton
Big Band and entertainers
Details: 01794 323487

10 May 2015 - National V.E.Day

V.E.Day Commemorative Service
Garrison Church, Aldershot

16/17 May 2015

National Conference 2015
Southport Conference Centre, Lancashire

1 June 2015

Cluster Meeting
Branches & Clubs in West Hampshire
Andover RBL Club
7.30pm
Details: 01794 323487

7 June 2015

Hampshire County Poppy Walk
Alice Holt Forest Centre, Bordon
(Hosted by Bordon & District Branch)
09.30 start
Further details: 07758 881961

22 June 2015

Armed Forces Day

27 June 2015

Farewell to the Garrison
The British Army leave Bordon
Parade, Memorial Service and Fun Day
Further details: 07758 881961

15 August 2015

Victory in Japan Day

6 September 2015

Earl Mountbatten Memorial Service
Romsey Abbey
Further details: bsoffe@britishlegion.org.uk

27 September 2015

Hampshire Standard Bearer's Competition
Jubilee Hall, Bishops Waltham
Further details: 02380 693028

10 October 2015

Hampshire County Conference
Jubilee Hall, Bishops Waltham
Further details: s.harris@britishlegion.org.uk

25 October 2015

Festival of Remembrance Concert & Service
Eastleigh & Chandlers Ford Branch
The Point, Eastleigh
Further details: 01962 275980

1 November 2015

Hampshire Festival of Remembrance
Mayflower Theatre
Southampton
Further details: cpeppiatt@britishlegion.org.uk

1 November 2015

Hampshire Royal British Legion Women's Section
Remembrance Concert
Fordingbridge
Further details: 01425 652499

8 November 2015

Remembrance Sunday

Golf Pairs

MONDAY, MAY 11, 2015

Hampshire RBL County Pairs tournament takes place at The Army Club, Aldershot on Monday, May 11 and event organiser Rick Bourne has six places available for teams wishing to enter at the last minute..

This course is one of the finest in North Hampshire and 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 6,300yd par 71 features which run through gently sloping low level woodland.

Rick has secured a military-rate due to our RBL association so we have an excellent value day at £41.00 per person (£164 per four) which includes coffee and bacon sandwich on arrival, 18 holes of golf and ham egg and chips to follow plus a contribution to the prizes. We will also be holding a raffle for the Poppy Appeal.

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 10 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!

The format of play is: Stableford, full handicap (max: gents 24, ladies 30)

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 this year.

If you would like to take part in this annual event please contact Rick Bourne immediately on:

01256 842722 or 07714 289157

Those entering should have cheques made payable to: **Mr. R. J. Bourne**



HAMPSHIRE

VE DAY 70

IN ALDERSHOT, HOME OF THE BRITISH ARMY

Part of a weekend celebrating the 70th Anniversary of Victory in Europe

SATURDAY 9 MAY 2015 10am - 5pm
in ALDERSHOT TOWN CENTRE

VICTORY DAY PARADE

at 11am - to include Marching Bands, Veterans, Re-enactors, Military Personnel and Vintage Cars

VINTAGE FAIR

Antiques & memorabilia

LIVE MUSIC

Songs that won the war

CLASSIC CAR SHOW

Supporting
ssafa Lifelong support
for our Forces
and their families

FREE activities for all the family

www.rushmoor.gov.uk/veday

Look out for a special
1940s VE DAY
DANCE



FRIDAY 8 MAY

from 7.30pm

TICKETS: £15



Princes Hall
Theatre - Aldershot

BOX OFFICE 01252 329155 www.princeshall.com

HOME FRONT
HISTORY
www.homefronthistory.com

RUSHMOOR
BOROUGH COUNCIL



HAMPSHIRE
CULTURAL
TRUST

The Story of how the First World War
changed the face of East Boldre
and the lives of its residents



FROM FOREST FIELD TO WESTERN FRONT

*A two-hour dramatisation highlighting the airfield and
aircraft, training and tragedies associated with Bagshot
Moor following the arrival of the Royal Flying Corps.*



EAST BOLDRE VILLAGE HALL

MAY 19, 20 & 21

Curtain up at 7.30pm

Tickets: £5

(including complimentary souvenir programme)

Tickets are available from East Boldre Post Office

or from Sue Adams on 01590 612887

This is an amateur performance.





The Great South Run

25th October 2015

10 Mile Run, Southsea, Hampshire

Compete in the Great South Run in aid of the Poppy Appeal and help support all our service personnel and veterans.

For More information contact:

Clare Peppiatt

cpeppiatt@britishlegion.org.uk

Tel: 02380 477274

**Guaranteed Royal British Legion Places with
A free t-shirt and running vest, hospitality in the Charity tent.**

All for £25 registration fee and £200 sponsorship.

Come join the Team!



STANDARD BEARERS

Wiltshire comments on Hampshire training

Hampshire's County Parade Marshal, Steve Forward, has a gentle, reassuring manner when conducting one of his monthly Standard Bearer's Schools. He coaches quietly, forsaking the Sergeant Major approach with words of advice and encouragement, punctuating the one-hour sessions with a little fun and good humour.

The new facility at Eastleigh's Pavilion on the Park is modern, spacious and airy, ideal for the training of Standard Bearers. Sadly, so few attend that they look a little lost in the cavernous hall.

A regular is the Bishops Waltham carrier Martin Wiltshire. He visited Waterlooville 20 years ago and was encouraged to learn the art by the Legion's John McDonald and hasn't looked back since.

He carried standards during his service in the Navy, at Worthy Down and as a member of the Bishops Waltham Branch. Not only does Martin carry his branch standard but he carries for the Royal Naval Association and the HMS Ganges Association.

There were three others at last month's training session, Les Bailey from Eastleigh, Dudley Howard from the Alton branch of the RAF Association and Richard Hill-Brown from Lovedean & Hordean .



County Parade Marshal Steve Forward
with a quiet word of advice

The Bishops Waltham man has plenty of experience but he's still willing to learn. "In fact I come to laugh and learn," he says. "We have a variety of ages, some with a military background and some without," he adds. "Some are confident and composed while other are anxious and unfamiliar with all the drills.

I am fairly experienced but I feel it is important to practice. We all get rusty. There's nothing worse than getting it wrong. When you're alone you get away with it but when you're in a group, get it wrong and you stick out."

Of course, the way to avoid that is to attend a training session with our genial, gentle Parade Marshal. Give him a try.

Time to go back to school

County Parade Marshall Steve Forward is inviting Branch Standard Bearers to attend the Standard Bearer's Schools listed below:

Pavilion in the Park, Kingfisher Road Eastleigh SO50 9LH at 2.00pm.

Sunday, May 10, June 14, July 12, August 9, September 13 and October 11.

Lymington Schools meet at the TA Drill Hall in Bath Road at 7.30pm

Monday, May 11, June 15, July 13, August 10, September 14 and October 12.

On Parade please

Standard Bearers are required on the following dates:

Weekend, May 9/10	County and Branch Standards for the V.E.Day parade in Aldershot
Sunday, June 22	County Standards for the Armed Forces Day Flag Raising in Winchester
Sunday, June 28	Six standards required for transfer of Branch Standard at Bordon
Sunday, September 6	County Standards for the EMMB Parade in Romsey

Special announcement:

Please remember Karen and David, our County Standard Bearers, are getting married on Sunday, July 12. Our County Parade Marshal requires 8 standards to form a Guard of Honour.

Keeping our Standards high

On March 17 the Ceremonial Working group (County Parade Marshal Steve Forward; Assistant County Parade Marshal Bernie Keane; County Standard Bearer David Graham, Hampshire WRBL Standard Bearer Karen Pearson and the County Chairman) addressed issues relating to Ceremonial.

They considered how the County might attract more adult and youth Standard Bearers, how existing Standard Bearers could be persuaded to attend the County training schools, how concerns about fitness for carrying, uniform and drills could be addressed, how more Standard Bearers can be encouraged to attend events, parades and services and what can be done to encourage more Branch Standard Bearers to enter the Hampshire County Competition.

The group considered the first priority to be improved communication and promotion to explain why the issues discussed were so important. If the overall standard is to be improved the group felt all Standard Bearers should attend at least one school per year and it will be recommended that greater attention be placed on uniform and appearance as laid down in the Ceremonial Handbook. Working Groups focussing on Struggling Branches and Recruitment & Retention meet next month.

LEST WE FORGET

Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of these members:

Mr B Blench	Gosport
Mr G Chiverton	Lee on the Solent
Mr B Deanus	Hordle
Mr C Field	Romsey
Mr M Ferguson	Sutton Scotney
Mr Allan Hay	Lee on the Solent
Mr R A Ings	Park Gate
Mr S Keen	Fordingbridge
Mr L Killingbeck	Hartley Wintney Standard Bearer
Mr R Neile	Eastleigh Chandlers Ford & District
Mrs J Nield	Bordon
Mr R Pearce	Lovedean & Horndean
Mrs L M Penfold	Hartley Wintney
Mr D Williams	Fordingbridge

SEND US YOUR NEWS

We would like to thank all those that have contributed photographs and copy for this month's newsletter. It is very much appreciated. It shows how busy and vibrant the Royal British Legion is in our County and this allows us to circulate the excellent news and examples of good practice.

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:

jshantsrbl@hotmail.com

ALL OTHER ENQUIRIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE CONTACT CENTRE ON

0808 802 8080