



HAMPSHIRE LINK

JULY 2015

CHARITY NO 219279

Farewell to the Garrison

Bordon's 152-year association with the British Army ended on Saturday, June 27 when a very special 'Farewell to the Garrison' Parade and Festival marked the departure of the Corps of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME) to Lyneham in Wiltshire. REME has been based in Hampshire since 1961.

Members of the Bordon and District Branch were afforded a prominent position alongside the saluting dais as around 2,000 people congregated at the Town's War Memorial to greet two platoons escorting the REME regimental flag.



The Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire, Nigel Atkinson Esq., presided over the Flag Raising Ceremony to mark Armed Forces Day before the Mayor of Whitehill Town Council, Cllr. Sally Pond, bestowed the Freedom of the Town on REME. Led by the Band and Corps of Drums of the Royal Logistic Corps they then marched back to barracks with bayonets fixed, flags flying and bands playing.

The Mayor and the Garrison Commander officially opened the Festival at the Garrison Sports Ground where a crowd in excess of 6,000 packed the showground, visiting displays of military vehicles, the extreme adventure and inflatable areas, a huge community village, BMX displays on the skateboard park, local history and military equipment displays and a children's battlefield.

The Royal British Legion was there in force, both the Bordon Branch and the Hampshire County marquees attracting a steady flow of visitors while ably supported by members of the Riders' Branch. The County also provided the Parade commentator and the Festival public address announcer.

Meanwhile, the queues for the beer tents, ice cream vans, SAFFA Big Brew marquee and the toilets threatened to break all records.

The Town Council and Garrison were determined to make it a day to remember and the Dog Show, Pipe & Drum Band, Inter-Platoon Tug-o-War competition, REME Enduro Motorcycle Team and REME Gun Run drew crowds sometimes numbering ten deep around the arena. The REME Parachute Display Team dropped in and the Red Arrows honoured REME with a fly past leaving red, white and blue vapour trailing in their wake.

Emotions ran high when the *Beating Retreat* ceremony ended with The Band of the Royal Logistics Corps playing 'Sunset' and the REME March 'Lillibulero' as Garrison Commander, Col. Mike Pendlington, took the salute and the regimental flag was lowered in Bordon for the final time.

BRANCH NEWS

'Local' links in Lovedean

Two organisations in the Lovedean and Horndean area have a common bond - they were both formed in a pub.

A group of Royal British Legion members met in the 'Bird in Hand' in April 1995 to form a local branch.

That was 13 years after five local Freemasons met in the 'Red Lion' to form the Horndean *Lodge of Harmony*.



The two groups joined together at a recent meeting of the Lovedean & Horndean RBL Branch when, Ken Emery, the Worshipful Master of the Horndean Lodge gave a talk about the *Lodge of Harmony* and their charity work and presented a cheque for £500 to Legion Branch Chairman Mrs Lorraine Jarvis (pictured above).

Ken, who is a former soldier, asked that charity funds raised by the Lodge during his year of office be donated to the Royal British Legion. The Branch, in turn, decided that the donation should be passed to the County Welfare Fund to benefit beneficiaries in Hampshire.

Seeking support at the Carnival



Bishops Waltham veteran Frank Harrison is determined to recruit new members and keep his branch alive

It was difficult for visitors to miss The Royal British Legion gazebo as they flocked through the main gate of the Bishops Waltham Carnival last month.

Branch stalwart Frank Harrison was joined by the County Chairman, the duo spending the afternoon inviting both adults and children to take part in a few simple competitions and using the opportunity to tell people about the work of the Legion and its welfare work.

Numerous former Service men and woman accepted the challenge of placing military ranks in the correct order but few were totally successful! There was an opportunity for the children to discover clues hidden on the colourful display boards and Legion pens, key rings, fluffy bugs and stress balls were well received.

Like most branches, Bishops Waltham is always on the lookout for new members and potential branch officers and interest was shown and names taken. The town carnival is ambitious, well organised and well supported and proved the perfect showcase for the Royal British Legion and the Bishops Waltham Branch.

Remembering the Battle of Britain

The Old Basing Branch, who staged a stunning World War I event last summer, is eager to mark the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain in similar style in September with a *Battle of Britain Commemorative Bike Show & Fete*.



They are busy planning a fun packed day for all the family on Saturday, September 19 which begins at noon and continues until 4.00pm.

Branch chairman, Adrian Cox, tells us there will be bikes of every size and description in the show and the selection of a 'Best in Show' and awards for best examples in other classes. There will be live music, stalls of every description and hopefully a bouncy castle.

Clearly, there will be plenty of entertainment for all the family and every taste for those who enjoy their food and drink.

The children will be allowed to sit on designated bikes (fully supervised) and have their pictures taken for nominal donations to the 'Poppy Appeal'. There will be raffles, the prizes including one of the 'Tower Poppies' kindly donated by one of the Riders Branch members.

It is hoped that there will be aircraft fly pasts and, possibly, a drop in visit from a local RAF Chinook or Lynx.

Further details of Old Basing's big Battle of Britain event can be found on:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/memorialbikeshow/>

Hambledon to mark V.J. Day

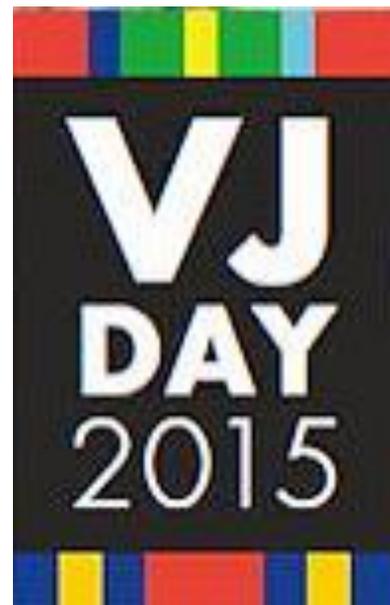
August marks the 70th Anniversary of Victory over Japan Day and Hambledon and District Branch are marking the occasion on Saturday 15 with a V.J. Day Dance in the local Village Hall.

"Touch of Class" will provide the live music and there will also be a disco.

Tickets are limited, priced at £10 for adults and £5 for 5 to 16 year olds. Under 5s are free.

Admission will include a cold meat buffet with salad, rice, pasta and French stick. There will also be a vegetarian option and the meal will include a sweet course.

Anyone interested in supporting the Hambledon & District Branch should contact the Branch Secretary on (02392) 632703.



COUNTY NEWS

So much from so few

Walkers returned from the Alice Holt Forest Centre full of praise for the Bordon Branch members who staged the County Poppy Walk. The scenic woodland walks proved popular and many favourable comments were made about the organisation of the event.

The walk raised £1,597 for the Poppy Appeal Fund. Eight branches were represented with Bordon, understandably, providing the majority of the walkers. Branch chairman Steve Johnson attracted £170 in sponsorship, the final total further enhanced by the £350 raised by No.6 Platoon Bordon Cadets.

Brenda Cox and husband Peter of the Lovedean & Horndean Branch each raised in excess of £100 for the Poppy Appeal as did Pamela Warr from Totton.

Whilst pleased with the amount raised the Bordon organisers were 'slightly disappointed' with the turn out, Aldershot the only other branch from the north and centre of the county attending on the day. Particular thanks must go to the walkers from Lovedean, Netley, Totton and Hayling Island who travelled a considerable distance to support the 2015 County Poppy Walk.



Brenda and Peter Cox
(Lovedean & Horndean Branch)
Here, there and everywhere -
raising money for the
Poppy Appeal

Duke commemorates bi-centenary

On June 14, the County Chairman and Vice Chairman, accompanied by their wives, represented Hampshire Royal British Legion at the Choral Evensong Service to mark the bi-centenary of the Battle of Waterloo.



Winchester chairman Derek Green delivered the Branch Standard to the altar, accompanied by the young woman who carried the Standard of the local Women's Section.

(Left: The 9th Duke of Wellington with the representatives of Hampshire RBL)

The service took place in Winchester Cathedral and the principal guest was His Grace The Duke of Wellington; Charles Wellesley, the 9th Duke, who is also High Steward of the Cathedral.

The service was conducted by The Dean of Winchester and the Sermon was delivered by The Rev' Dr David Coulter, Chaplain General of the British Army.

The amazing voices of the Girl Choristers and Lay Clerks of Winchester Cathedral Choir featured prominently throughout the service before the organist played a magnificent Organ Voluntary.

During an informal reception at the South Door the Duke congratulated members of the Hampshire Royal British Legion for all they do for the Service and ex-Service community.

Flag Raising in Winchester



Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire attended the Flag Raising Ceremony at Winchester's Great Hall on June 22.

Nigel Atkinson was joined by the Leader of Hampshire County Council, the Mayor of Winchester and guests including the RBL Hampshire, Dorset & Isle of Wight Area Manager, the Hampshire County Chairman and Vice-Chairman and the Chairman of the Hampshire Women's Section.

The County Standards and Branch Standards from across Hampshire were paraded at the main door of the Great Hall and dipped as the Armed Forces Day Flag was raised.

The Lord Lieutenant inspected the parade comprising members of the three Services and spoke of the debt we owe to our Armed Forces. The Dean of Winchester then delivered prayers, children from local schools waved Union flags, tourists took every possible photo opportunity and the Band of the Royal Logistics Corps played a varied and entertaining selection of music.

Appeals ²

Our Membership Support Officer, Steph Harris, is getting an increasing number of requests for buglers (usually for funerals). Unfortunately, the Area Office do not have a database of buglers that can be contacted should the need arise.

It would be appreciated if branch officers and/or members could contact us about any buglers willing to assist the Royal British Legion in Hampshire. Our MSO requires the full name, the area the bugler would be prepared to cover, their telephone number, email address and, of course, permission to pass the information on to funeral directors/individuals.

To this appeal we add a second request: We can only assume that this *Hampshire Link* newsletter, which can be found on the County website, has been read by a gentleman in Sydney, Australia.

Dennis Hall lives in New South Wales and contacted the *Link* about a bugler called Darren Witter. Dennis believes Darren may be living in Hampshire and is keen to track him down. A number of items including letters and artefacts belonging to Australian relatives of James William Cheetham Witter, a Titanic survivor of Porchester Road in Woolston have come into his possession.

Dennis wishes to reunite this material and his research of the Witter family to any distant relative of James Witter that might now live in Hampshire. The County Committee hope to facilitate this exchange.

County Golf Pairs

Hampshire RBL golfers contested the 16th Annual Pairs competition at the Army Golf Course near Aldershot on May 11, the first time the event had been staged in the north of the county.

The tree-lined parkland course was in great condition, the weather was good and County President David Harrison took part for the first time. Brigadier Harrison is President of the Army Course and secured a 'good rate' for the golf day!



Players from Old Basing, Eastleigh and Romsey entered the pairs competition and the 19-man entry made up 5 teams and enjoyed an excellent days golf.

It was a Stableford pairs competition and the County President put local course knowledge to good use and along with Old Basing's Aiden Brophy carded a collective score of 70 points to win the Bob Knight Perpetual Trophy.

They had a 5-point cushion over two teams, David scoring 31 points and Aiden a very creditable 39 off a 9-handicap, but on count-back it was Paul Brett and Rick Bourne who nipped into second spot ahead of husband and wife pairing Malcolm and Caroline Leavey (Old Basing). Nearest the Pin prize went to long-term supporter, Eastleigh's Bob Blandford, and Longest Drive was secured by Dave Whitby of Old Basing.

The presentation of prizes followed a welcome meal and drink and the raffle raised £86 for The Poppy Appeal Classic fund.

As with the Poppy Walk, support was disappointing. Many Hampshire RBL members play golf and are invited to represent their Branch next year in a bid to reverse the malaise. Our County Golf Secretary Rick Bourne points out that whilst the event is a Stableford pairs competition, branches could play in the comfort of four-balls but have a better chance by combining the best two scores to produce the best pair. We look forward to increased numbers next year.

Rick ran another golf day recently entitled the *Armed Forces Golf Day* for local players, including a few Royal British Legion members, and raised £337 which is to be passed to the Old Basing PAO Tim Russell. This is the fourth year Rick has run this event.



The golf day always attracts about 30 players and together they have now totalled well over £1,000 for the Poppy Appeal. Such fund raising events clearly have a greater appeal to none RBL people and it is hoped that more Legion members will support Rick in future.

Good news, for all golfers (old and new). The popular Team Texas Scramble is to take place on Monday, October 19 at East Horton near Fair Oak. Details will be found on the entry form available in mid-July but we suggest you reserve the date in your diary and ask that you support the event by entering YOUR Branch or Club team this year.

For advance information please contact Golf secretary Rick Bourne (rbourne@glenair.co.uk)

POPPY APPEAL

Festival supports Poppy Appeal

Hands were clapping and toes were tapping throughout a very entertaining concert that formed part of the Aldershot Garrison Festival of Music.

The concert staged at the Princes Theatre in Aldershot featured the Band of the Adjutant General's Corps supported by the Aldershot Military Wives Choir, and the North East Hampshire Area Schools Young Singers (NEHYS – pronounced 'knee-highs'). But, the performance that stole the show was given by a group of 10-19 year olds entitled *Oku Noju Daiko* who presented an exciting and reverberating style of drumming that originated in Japan.

There was collective toe-tapping from the Area staff and County Committee members present; the Area Manager, Community Fundraiser North, Area Administrator and Aldershot Outreach Officer were joined by the County President, Chairman, Vice Chairman and County Committee members Jacki Gatfield and Mick Mills.

There was excellent support from the Aldershot and Farnborough Branches, their veterans raising over £300 from the bucket collection and, together with a donation from the ticket sales, Dave Moore, Community Fundraiser North, will be able to add almost £1,200 to the Hampshire Poppy Appeal total.

STANDARD BEARERS

School Days

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, July 12, August 9, September 13 and October 11

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

Monday, July 13, August 10, September 14 and October 12

On Parade please

Standard Bearers are required on the following dates:

Thursday, July 9	6 Standards for Freedom Parade in Winchester
Sunday, July 12	8 Standards required at Dave & Karen's wedding in Milford-on-Sea
Sunday, September 6	County Standards for the EMMB Parade in Romsey
Sunday, November 1	County & Branch Standards for Festival of Remembrance in Southampton

Portsmouth Reunions

Hampshire County Deputy Parade Marshall, Chris Purcell, considered it a considerable honour when asked to take part in the Reunions for HMS Sheffield & HMS Coventry in Portsmouth.

Both services were held in early May to commemorate the 33rd Anniversaries of the Falklands Conflict.

The reunions were arranged by former ships companies and the support received from other veterans and associations was greatly appreciated.

Chris has recently been appointed Deputy Poppy Appeal Organiser for Portsmouth, working alongside his wife Louise who goes into her 8th year as Organiser with a total of £94,000 raised so far since November 2014.



NATIONAL

‘Are you in?’ welfare project

Studies show many of our Beneficiaries are lonely, socially isolated or housebound.

The Royal British Legion is looking for branches of all sizes from across the UK to test new activities which help beneficiaries in your local community.

Participating branches choose activities such as coffee mornings, phone a friend or basic gardening services to name a few and will be asked to report on a monthly basis to help us to evaluate success, share lessons learned, identify costs and benefits.

Information gathered during the 3 month test period will be used to develop a framework for welfare provision within the branches. The Membership Council will be asked to approve these activities and include the framework in branch policy and procedures from 2016 onwards.

If you want to be in and have a say in how welfare can be delivered from the branches please contact our MSO or County Chairman, alternatively email welfareproject@britishlegion.org.uk.



‘Are you in?’

EVENTS

EVENTS DIARY

What's On.....

9 July 2015

Freedom Parade for Royal Hussars
Winchester Guildhall
12 noon

10 July 2015

Musical Summer Soirée
(Hosted by Copythorne & District Branch)
Scammels Farm, Copythorne
7.30pm
Admission £8.00
Further details: 02380 812504

12 July 2015

Battle of Britain Brass Band Concert
Lyndhurst Community Centre
(Hosted by Lyndhurst & District Branch)
Tickets: £10
6.30pm
Further details: 07702 493437

1 / 2 August 2015

By-Gone Days
Brooklands Farm, Sth Gorley, Fordingbridge
From 10.30am each day
Admission £4
Further details: 01425 652499

15 August 2015

Victory over Japan Day

15 August 2015

V.J.Day Dance
Hambleton Village Hall
(Hosted by the Hambleton & District Branch)
Tickets: Adults £10, 5-16-y-o £5
Further details: 02392 632703

6 September 2015

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

12 September 2015

Proms for Poppies
(Hosted by the Hampshire Riders Branch)
Copythorne Scout HQ, Romsey Road
From 5.00pm Admission £8
Further details: 02380 814732

19 September 2015

Battle of Britain Bike Show and Fete
Old Basing RBL Club
From 12 noon to 4.00pm.

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

19 October 2015

Team Texas Scramble
East Horton Golf Course nr. Fair Oak
Further details: rbourne@glenair.co.uk

25 October 2015

Great South Run (10 mile course)
Southsea, Portsmouth
£25 registraion fee + £250 sponsorship
Further details: cpeppiatt@britishlegion.org.uk

1 November 2015

Hampshire Festival of Remembrance
Mayflower Theatre, Southampton
Tickets: £16.50 to £21.50
On: 02380 711811
Further details: cpeppiatt@britishlegion.org.uk

8 November 2015

Remembrance Sunday

**BATTLE OF BRITAIN
COMMEMORATIVE
BIKE SHOW & FETE**

Saturday 19th September

All types of bikes scooters

Welcome to be shown

Bike, Club & Fete Stalls

Burger Van, Awards, Bar

All profits to The Poppy Appeal

Old Basing RBL

RG24 7DN

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/memorialbikeshow/>

THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION



Providing welfare,
comradeship,
representation and
Remembrance for the
Armed Forces
community

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Lyndhurst & District Branch



**Join us to commemorate the
75th Anniversary of**

‘The Battle of Britain’

Brass Band Concert

Music from the Downton Band

Sunday 12th July 2015

6.30 pm

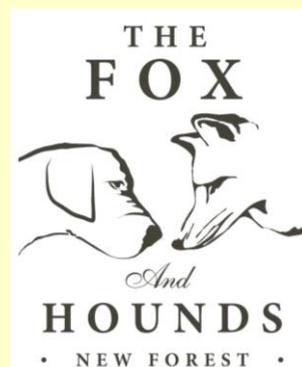
Lyndhurst Community Centre

Tickets from Community Centre and Workmen’s Club

- £10, including Cheese and Wine!



Sponsored by



All profits to The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

Feature item: Lymington Club Revival

Branches flourish if they partner a well-run club and that is very much the case in Lymington.

The Lymington Club had been losing money for some years and was experiencing real difficulties. In 2010 new committee members teamed up with experienced, re-elected members and identified key cost saving areas, focussing on the wages bill, brewery supplies, wastage, energy and cleaning. The appointment of a new steward, tough negotiating with the brewery and a zero tolerance policy on bad behaviour (heavy drinking and bad language) paid dividends.

Within a year the club and finances had stabilised, the atmosphere and membership numbers improved and they began promoting Lymington as a family club where children were welcome. A bouncy castle was hired for special family days, face painting and children's games were introduced and this proved very popular.

By 2012, thanks to minor improvements and improved entertainment they were making a small profit and in 2013, a significant year for the Club, new committee members with vision took up the challenge.

The old tired interior was completely re-decorated and a sports room re-designed and re-furnished, the previously under-used room becoming a popular success. In 2014 the Club purchased its own bouncy castle, swings and garden games and the weekend garden usage took off.

Regular fun days for children included pantomimes, face painting, a balloon man and party games and Sunday activities became particularly busy. Entertainment and the bar takings improved and 2013 again ended in profit.

With another total transformation in 2014, the bank balance grew and money was ploughed back into the club for members. In the garden, a hedge was removed, creating room for a longer lawn and garden furniture which is now in constant use.

The improvements allow the members to use the Women's Section room, dance hall and Club for their own private parties. Additionally, major charities use the Club for fund raising, the charities making good money and the Club profiting over the bar. This also helps to promote the Legion club and attracts new members.

As the entertainment programme improved the Club declared a healthy bank balance in 2014. So far this year there has been further expansion, upgrading and re-investment while retaining the net. The Women's Section Room has been re-decorated, double patio doors and an enlarged patio have been added, a huge asset that private party hirers appreciate.

With improved entertainment and facilities and with additional younger members it has become family friendly and a place that people like and want to spend time in. By identifying the initial problems, working hard to improve facilities, working together to improve the Club for its 650 Legion members and almost 300 women members the Lymington Club has turned the corner and secured its immediate future.

LEST WE FORGET

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

Mr E W Bevin	Copythorne
Mr J Bird	Bordon
Mrs V Dowse	Headley & District
Mr M J Eden	Park Gate
Mrs Farrant	Romsey
Mr P Gale	Lovedean & Horndean
Mr R Gale	Bitterne & EMMB
Mr J Gray	Fawley
Miss J Hatch	Copythorne
Mr T Healey	Southampton
Mrs W Hutchings	Burley
Mr E M Scriven	Copythorne
Mrs P J Shepherd	Park Gate
Mr R E Shepherd	Park Gate
Major General Stephenson CB OBE	Houghton
Mrs P Willan	Burley

SEND US YOUR NEWS

We would like to thank all those that have sent news reports and photographs for inclusion in this month's newsletter. It is very much appreciated. We welcome all news and information from Hampshire branches and work to ensure that it is included in the *Hampshire Link* newsletter.

Please forward news (maximum of 250 words please) and pictures to:

jshantsrbl@hotmail.com

ALL OTHER ENQUIRIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE CONTACT CENTRE ON

0808 802 8080