



HAMPSHIRE LINK

SEPTEMBER 2015

CHARITY NO 219279

‘Forgotten Army’ Remembered



Remembrance ceremonies, large and small, were held across Hampshire on August 15 to mark the 70th anniversary of Victory over Japan Day.

There were major Acts of Remembrance in Aldershot and Southampton; Southampton Branch member Archie Parsons joining The Mayor, Civic dignitaries and military and community representatives to lay a wreath at the City’s War Memorial on behalf of the Royal British Legion.



Royal British Legion Standards, the Portsmouth Military Wives Choir and World War II veterans played a prominent part in Portsmouth’s V.J. Day 70th Anniversary Service of Remembrance

In Portsmouth the County Chairman laid a wreath on behalf of the Hampshire Royal British Legion, Parade Marshal Chris Purcell from our Portsmouth South Branch led a parade of ten Standard Bearers and Community Fundraiser Clare Peppiatt also represented the Legion.

The service was conducted by the Revd. Canon Bob White, watched by Burma Star veterans, prisoners of war and their families.

He introduced the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth, Cllr. Frank Jonas, who spoke about V. J. Day in 1945. Council Leader, Cllr. Donna Jones remembered Portsmouth’s links with V. J. Day and World War II veteran Jim Rhodes read an account written by a serviceman who served in the Far East.

RAF pilot Len Russell recalled his memories of a bombing raid on the notorious Thai Burma Railway before delivering the Kohima Epitaph.

The bugler played The Last Post and a lament during the wreath laying which saw a Deputy Lieutenant of Hampshire, the Lord Mayor, the Council Leader, a Portsmouth MP and representatives of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, the WW2 Memorial Trust and the Royal British Legion pay their respects.

A very personal tribute was then paid by Peter Cox, Secretary of the Lovedean & Horndean Branch, who laid a wreath in memory of his cousin, Bandmaster Vic ‘Bandy’ Vidler, who died in a POW camp in April 1945. An excellent performance by the Portsmouth Military Wives Choir provided a fitting conclusion to a very solemn occasion.



BRANCH NEWS

Memorial Branch Invitations



The Earl Mountbatten Memorial Branch was formed in May 1980, nearly a year after the death of Lord Louis Mountbatten. Its founder members were all members of the Hampshire County Committee whose idea it was to remember this great statesman by naming a Legion branch in his honour.

From that time membership grew steadily to 116 in 1992 but has gradually fallen to 40 members in September last year and currently the branch has only 28 members (including 4 Life members). All members agree to remain a member of their local branch, which means those joining the EMMB have to pay two subs.

The branch meets four times a year in October (AGM), January, April and July and branch committee meetings are also held quarterly in December, March, June and August to join new members. The next general meeting is at the Romsey RBL Club, Love Lane at 2.00pm on Saturday, October 24, 2015 and the branch extends an open invitation to any Legion member to come along to any of their meetings and anyone feeling inclined to join the branch would be very welcome.

Application forms may be obtained from B C N Soffe, Greystones, Barney Hayes Lane, Cadnam, Southampton SO40 2ND (02380 812419)

The annual Earl Mountbatten Memorial Service takes place in Romsey Abbey at 3.00pm this Sunday (September 6). The Reverend Tim Sledge, Vicar of Romsey will conduct the service and the guests include the Hampshire RBL County Patron, Dame Mary Fagan DCVO, JP, the County President, the Mayor of Test Valley, Mayor of Romsey and County RBL Officers. The invitation to the service is extended to members, family and friends.

Collector's Item

How well we remember those brilliant red Poppies that washed the Tower of London between July and November last year.

Well, one of those Poppies has found its way to Hampshire and the Old Basing Branch are offering it as a stunning prize in an auction. But the branch is determined to keep it very quiet ... so it's going to be a Silent Auction!!



Legion members, family and friends are invited to bid for the TOWER OF LONDON CERAMIC POPPY. Bids should be put in a sealed envelope and sent to RICK BOURNE at 86 CAVALIER ROAD, OLD BASING, HAMPSHIRE RG24 7ET to arrive **no later** than September 18.

The outside of the envelope should be marked SILENT AUCTION. The highest bidder will be notified on the same day as Old Basing's *Battle of Britain Bike Show and Fete* on September 19 and be expected to send payment within 7 days to Rick Bourne, c/o OLD BASING RBL. The Poppy will be delivered either by hand or by courier.

Sadness and celebration in Milford

The 70th anniversary of V. J. Day was marked in Milford-on-Sea with a successful blend of commemoration and celebration. 46 branch members, friends and supporters gathered at a local club on August 14 to hear the memories of a former POW, enjoy a three-course dinner followed by good old fashioned 'concert party' entertainment.

Alec Luxon spoke of his internment as a child by the Japanese and his imprisonment in China during World War II. Alec recalled that civilians were not mistreated by the Japanese but did suffer some hardships and clearly children did not have the same concerns as their parents. Alex was freed two days after V. J. Day by well-armed Americans who were surprised to be mobbed by a gang of children who simply broke through the camp gates.

Following the meal, prepared by the club steward and his team, the mood of the evening changed from commemoration to celebration with members and friends performing a comic sketch, a George Formby tribute-style ukulele show, a humorous poem and three ladies dressed as the Andrews Sisters dancing to "The boogie woogie bugle girls of Company B". The memorable evening concluded with a sing along to Glenn Miller favourites and other popular tunes of World War II.



Milford on Sea members : remembering the horrors of World War II, celebrating the victory in costume of the period and raising £350 for the Poppy Appeal.

Harvest time at Old Basing



One of the highlights of the Royal British Legion year in Hampshire is the annual Harvest Festival and Auction which will be held at the RBL Old Basing Club at 7.15pm on September 13.

The event, organised by the branch, always enjoys good support and after a short Service of Thanksgiving, conducted by their dynamic young vicar, branch members auction huge quantities of fruit, veg and other produce and the proceeds go to the Poppy Appeal.

If you enjoy traditional events and wish to attend please call Rick Bourne on 01256 842722 to book your Ploughman's Supper. You'll receive a warm welcome, there is always a wonderful atmosphere and you could go home with a larder full of goodies ... so, bring a bag!

Closure of Botley Branch

The Botley & District Branch, which has served Service and ex-Service personnel and its local community since January 1923 was officially closed at a Special General Meeting on August 9.

Despite having around 250 members the branch was unable to form a committee and voted to close the branch and transfer all funds to the Poppy Appeal. The County Committee endorsed the decision at their meeting on August 24 and the Royal British Legion's Membership Council will consider the decision and complete the closure process at their next meeting.

COUNTY NEWS

Hampshire County Conference

The Hampshire County Conference will take place at the Jubilee Hall in Bishops Waltham, beginning at 10.00am on Saturday, October 10.

This is the second County Conference of 2015, the AGM moved from its January setting to give branches, our MSO and County Conference Committee more time to complete all the administrative arrangements. All future Hampshire Conferences will now take place in October.

Darron Back (Bordon & District) is the new chairman of the Conference Committee and he and his team have been preparing this year's event for some time. With just over five weeks to go to Conference the committee seek branch assistance on a number of matters:

- A branch delegate is only eligible to attend County Conference if:
The Area Office has received the Branch MS1 for 2014/15 by September 30, 2015
The Area Office has received the Branch R&P for June 2015 by September 30, 2015
- Conference luncheon forms should be returned to the Area Office by September 30
- Branches awarded trophies at the January conference are asked to return them (freshly polished) to the Jubilee Hall on the morning of the October conference or otherwise deliver them to the Area Office before October 9.
- Once again the Conference Committee would appreciate any prizes that could be donated for the Poppy Appeal Draw on the morning of conference.

Your assistance with these matters would be greatly appreciated.

Farewell to two Hampshire stalwarts



Hampshire Royal British Legion said goodbye to two of its longest serving, hardest working and most loyal members in July.

John Bright, President of the Earl Mountbatten Memorial Branch and Vice Chairman of the Farnborough Branch and Mrs Betty Slatter of the Ringwood Branch both passed away on July 20.



Representatives of the Royal British Legion, the Scouts and John's Masonic Lodge packed the Aldershot Park Crematorium in early August and the County Standard and those of the Earl Mountbatten Memorial and Farnborough Branches led the cortège. County Treasurer and close friend, Brian Soffe, read a eulogy during the service.

As well as serving as Vice Chairman of the Farnborough Branch, John served the EMMB as Vice Chairman, Chairman, Vice President and President. He had also been a member of the County Committee for nine years, the last four as Vice Chairman. After spending 11 years representing Hampshire on the South East Area Council he served as a County Vice President until his death.

Legion Standards also led the way at Betty Slatter's funeral which took place at Ringwood Parish Church four days later. Representatives from the Legion, the Hampshire Women's Section and numerous other community groups filed into the church for the service and heard tributes to Betty and praise for her work as Secretary, Chairman and president of the County Women's Section. Both were champions of the Royal British Legion and will be sadly missed.

Cluster update

The meetings for the Andover and Romsey clusters of branches and clubs took place at the end of July and the discussion was considered positive, useful and valuable by those that participated. Once again the attendance was disappointing, only around 30% of those invited taking advantage of the opportunity and very few absentees offering the courtesy of an apology.

The two remaining cluster groups meet this month and last year the Portsmouth and Southampton meetings were well attended. Hopefully the 20 branches and 10 clubs invited will benefit from sharing ideas and information with Legion colleagues.

The Portsmouth group meet at the Portsmouth RBL Club at 7.30pm on Monday, September 14 and the Southampton cluster meet at the Park Gate RBL Club on Wednesday September 16 at the same time.

At the cluster meetings branches and clubs often ask County Officers to direct enquiries about matters of general interest to the Area Office or Haig House on their behalf. At a previous meeting concern was expressed about the distribution of welfare grants in Hampshire and at the recent Romsey meeting there was a question about the slow delivery of welfare to beneficiaries. Requests have been submitted for information but, as yet, no response has been received.

Something a little special

A Basingstoke-based amateur orchestra, the Deane Sinfonia, are putting on a concert at the 950-seat Anvil Theatre in Basingstoke on Saturday, February 6, 2016. A number of local choirs will join the orchestra for performances of two popular classical pieces - Verdi's Requiem and the Bruch Violin Concerto.

With a massed choir of around 200 singers, four professional soloists for the Requiem and Emily Mowbray, a talented violinist from the Royal Northern College of Music playing the concerto it promises to be a very special evening.



The Director of Music, John Fuller, has selected the Royal British Legion as the charity to benefit from this concert and we hope you will put February 6, 2016 in your diary, spread the news of the concert to your branch members and friends and support this event which, potentially, could raise a great deal of money for the Poppy Appeal.

POPPY APPEAL

And on the subject of the Poppy Appeal ... very good news. At last week's County Committee meeting, Dave Moore (Community Fundraiser North), reported that the Hampshire Poppy Appeal total stood at:

£1,534,570

And the National figure is now a staggering:

£44,477,540

Sincere thanks must go to all our Poppy Appeal Co-ordinators and our Poppy Appeal collectors.

REMEMBRANCE REMINDER

Talented military musicians from the bands of the Adjutant General's Corps, The Rifles and the Queen's Division will take to the stage at Southampton's Mayflower Theatre on November 1 for the third in the new series of Hampshire Festival of Remembrance concerts.

They will be joined by the Southampton Philharmonic Choir and among the special guests will be Her Serene Highness Princess Sophie Von Hohenberg, the Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire, Nigel Atkinson Esq. and our County Patron, Dame Mary Fagan.

Tickets are only available through the theatre box office and Legion members are advised to book tickets (from £16.50 to £21.50) as soon as possible.

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)

STANDARD BEARERS

On Parade please

Standard Bearers are required on the following dates:

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| Sunday, September 6 | The Earl Mountbatten Memorial Service in Romsey Abbey County and Branch Standards please |
| Sunday, September 13 | Remembrance Service at Chilbolton Airfield. 12 noon. A Para. Event but Standards welcome. |
| Sunday, September 27 | County Standard Bearer's competition in Bishops Waltham |
| Saturday, October 10 | Annual County Conference in Bishops Waltham County and Branch Standards please |
| Sunday, October 25 | County & Branch Standards for Festival of Remembrance in Eastleigh |
| Sunday, November 1 | County & Branch Standards for Festival of Remembrance in Southampton |

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 - September 13 and October 11 at 2.00pm

The TA Drill Hall in Bath Road, Lymington - September 14 and October 12 at 7.30pm

CAN WE HELP YOU?

Aware that Branch Standard Bearers in the northern half of Hampshire find it difficult, if not impossible, to travel to Eastleigh or Lymington, it has long been the County Committee's wish to establish a Standard Bearer's School in Aldershot.

The Committee have the offer of a venue and an instructor and now wish to assess the level of interest among Standard Bearers who would like to polish their skills and update their training.

If you are interested in attending Standard Bearer's sessions in Aldershot please would you contact our County Parade Marshal, Steve Forward on (02380) 693028.

NATIONAL


lmp
LONDON MOZART PLAYERS

MOZART
EXPLORED


1783

PART 1 OF THE 1783 CONCERT SERIES
Mozart & the Sisters
Thursday 26th November 2015 | 7.30pm

Join the London Mozart Players
at St John's Smith Square for a
four-part concert series
exploring a fascinating selection
of Mozart's works from 1783.

LIVE ON 
100% Profits to The Royal British Legion

As part of the London Mozart Players' *Harmony in Conflict* initiative, 100% of the profit from this concert series will go to The Royal British Legion.


ST JOHN'S SMITH SQUARE
Box Office: St John's Smith Square, London SW1P 3HA | www.sjss.org.uk | 020 7222 1061

EVENTS DIARY

What's On.....

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

13 September 2015

Harvest Festival & Auction of Produce
(Hosted by the Old Basing)
Old Basing RBL Club, Crown Lane
From 7.15pm
Further details: 01256 842722

15 September 2015

Battle of Britain Day

19 September 2015

Battle of Britain Bike Show and Fete
Old Basing RBL Club
From 12 noon to 4.00pm.
Further details: 01256 842722

19/20 September 2015

Warfare Through The Ages
A Tank Museum Weekend Special
Bovington Tank Museum, Dorset
10.00am to 5.00pm both days **19 September 2015**

Battle of Britain Bike Show and Fete
Old Basing RBL Club
From 12 noon to 4.00pm.
Further details: 01256 842722

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: c.borris@britishlegion.org.uk

24 October 2015

Hampshire Police Band in Concert
(Hosted by Ringwood & District Branch)
Ringwood Parish Church 7.30pm
Further details: 01425 478557

25 October 2015

Great South Run (10-mile course)
Southsea, Portsmouth
£25 registration fee + £250 sponsorship
For details: c.peppiatt@britishlegion.org.uk
02380 477274

25 October 2015

Festival of Remembrance Concert & Service
(Hosted by Eastleigh & Chandlers Ford Branch)
The Point, Eastleigh
Further details: 02380 251156

30 October 2015

Poppy Concert - Romsey Male Voice Choir
(Romsey Branch)
United Reformed Church, Romsey
7.30pm Tickets: £10
Further details: Kath Garland 01794 522643

1 November 2015

Hampshire Festival of Remembrance
Mayflower Theatre, Southampton
Tickets: £16.50 - £21.50 (on 02380 711811)
Further details: cpeppiatt@britishlegion.org.uk
02380 477274

1 November 2015

Hampshire RBL Women's Section
Remembrance Concert
Fordingbridge
Further details: 01425 652499

8 November 2015

Remembrance Sunday

11 November 2015

Michelmersh Band in Concert
(Hosted by Romsey Branch)
United Reform Church, Romsey
7.30pm
Further details: Kath Garland 01794 522643



Old Basing Branch,
Royal British Legion,
Crown Lane, Old Basing

Harvest Festival

**Service and Supper.
Sunday 13th September.**



**Short Service 7:15 for 7:30^{pm}
followed by ploughman's supper and
Auction of goods on display.
Proceeds to **Poppy Appeal.****



*Your Donations of flowers,
fruit and Veg, tinned goods
and wine, most welcome at
the Hall between 10-1130am
on the day.*



Everybody Most Welcome

Reg Charity No. 219279



**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/>

Royal British Legion
Social Club

**HAYLING ISLAND
FUN DAY**
SUNDAY 30th AUGUST
From 11.30AM

All welcome

Children's Entertainer –
Tony Spaghetti

Fun and Games
for everyone

Membership open to all.
Come and see what we have to offer

02392 467614 

Royal British Legion
Social Club

Tel 02392 467614

**AFTERNOON
BINGO AND DANCE**
**TUESDAY 29TH
SEPTEMBER**

12pm – 4pm

Cream of Vegetable Soup
(with Warm Crusty Roll)

Spotted Dick & Custard
tea or Coffee

£7 Per Person

Bingo & Raffle excluded in price

Music
by
Andrew

Booking advised

 haylingrbl@yahoo.co.uk

LEST WE FORGET

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

| | |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Mr N F Appleby | Burley |
| Miss P D Atkinson | Fleet, Crookham & District |
| Mr M Cook | Old Basing Standard Bearer |
| Mr G Dean | Ringwood |
| Mr J F Figgins | Lymington |
| Major N F Legge | Fleet, Crookham & District |
| Mr A Pauly | Fawley |
| Mrs B Slatter | Ringwood & District |

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 TO THE CONTACT CENTRE ON 0808 802 8080