



# HAMPSHIRE LINK

OCTOBER 2015

CHARITY NO 219279

## Remembrance at The Mayflower



'South Today' presenter Sally Taylor received considerable critical acclaim when she appeared in *The Vagina Monologues* at the Mayflower Theatre in 2010.



Princess Sophie of Hohenberg, the great-granddaughter of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria whose assassination triggered the outbreak of the First World War.

BBC Television presenter Sally Taylor is to compère the 2015 Hampshire Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance at Southampton's Mayflower Theatre on Sunday, November 1.

Miss Taylor will introduce musicians selected from the Adjutant General's Corps Band, the Queen's Division Band and the Band and Corps of Drums of the Rifles, the massed bands under the direction of Lt. Brendan Wheeler.

Lt. Wheeler hails from Cairns in Australia, was selected to perform at the opening of the Sydney Olympic Games, awarded a music scholarship to the *University of Salford* and won the prestigious BBC Radio 2 Young Brass Soloist title in 2005 before joining the British Army four years later.

The bandsmen and women will share the stage with the 150-strong Southampton Philharmonic Choir, Director of Music David Gibson conducting one of the longest-established and most respected choirs in the South of England.

Special guests at the Festival will include Her Serene Highness, Princess Sophie of Hohenberg, Nigel Atkinson Esq., the Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire, civic dignitaries and senior members of the Armed Forces.

The Hampshire Festival, the largest Festival of Remembrance outside London, commemorates and honours all those who have lost their lives in conflicts and is certain to be a moving and enjoyable evening.

Festival producer, Paul Capper, says "I have to say I have a very warm feeling that all is going well and indeed, the seeds have been sewn for a very special event."

**Tickets (from £16.50 to £21.50) are only available from the Mayflower Theatre Box Office and can be obtained by telephone (02380 711811) or in person - Monday to Thursday 9.30am-6.00pm, Friday 10.00am-6.00pm, Saturday 9.30am-6.00pm and Sunday\*\* 4.30pm-8.00pm (\*\* Only if there is a performance).**

## BRANCH NEWS

### Remembering Mountbatten



Hampshire RBL Patron, Dame Mary Fagan, inspects the Standards.

A large congregation and an impressive parade of Legion Standards attended the Earl Mountbatten Memorial Branch Service in Romsey Abbey on September 6.

Our County Patron, Dame Mary Fagan DCVO, JP, was guest of honour and joined by the Mayors of Test Valley and Romsey, Lady Brabourne the High Steward of Romsey and Caroline Nokes, the MP for Romsey.

County President, Brigadier David Harrison JP, DL led officers of Hampshire Royal British Legion and the County Women's Section.

During the service, led by the Vicar of Romsey Revd. Canon Tim Sledge, Branch President Bob Knight and the County Chaplain Ray Hubble read the lessons and Branch chairman Jeremy Musgrove laid a wreath on the tomb of Earl Mountbatten.

During a powerful and thought provoking address the Vicar referred to Earl Mountbatten's assassination in Sligo in 1979 and recent events in Northern Ireland, stressing that although remembrance is important, looking to the future positively through peace and reconciliation is essential.

Following the Service Dame Mary and other distinguished guests inspected the Standards paraded outside the Abbey before proceeding to the Romsey Royal British Legion Club where Legion members and their guests enjoyed light refreshments and shared reflections on another memorable service to honour Admiral of the Fleet, Earl Mountbatten of Burma.



Dame Mary addressing guests at the Romsey RBL Club

### Check-Out cheque in Petersfield

Regular shoppers at Waitrose will have seen the clear plastic boxes, usually located beyond the check-out tills, which enable customers to support local charities.

On September 1, 2015 Waitrose in Petersfield selected The Royal British Legion as one of their "Community Matters" charities. Shoppers donated a considerable number of green tokens that equated to £472.

Branch Chairman Clive Lewis and Petersfield Secretary David Lloyd recently visited the store to collect the "Community Matters" cheque and offer their very sincere thanks to Waitrose on behalf of the Royal British Legion.



Petersfield RBL Chairman Clive Lewis (left) and Branch secretary David Lloyd (right) receive a cheque from Alison, the "Community Matters" Manager at Waitrose in Petersfield.

## Land of song, fundraising and Riders



ABOVE TOP:  
Party organisers: Bob Bartlett (left) Colin Larcombe and Graeme 'Ritchie' Cunningham (right) of the Riders' Branch with Copythorne Chairman 'Ginge' Kinley and his wife (and PAO) Helen.

BOTTOM:  
Promenaders Brenda and Pete Cox.

FAR RIGHT:  
'Ritchie' Cunningham contemplating a 'Land of Hope and Glory'.

Belfast, Glasgow, Hyde Park, Swansea and Copythorne ... cultural centres that were in tune with the BBC's *Last Night of the Proms* from the Royal Festival Hall on September 12.

For the fourth year running members of the Hampshire Riders' Branch descended on the Copythorne Branch, set up a large screen, linked their audio/visual equipment to the television output and waited for the party to start.

Around 80 Copythorne and Riders' branch members with their families and friends, donned party hats, waved Union Flags and enjoyed a ploughman's Supper, tasty desserts and a 'Poppy Cocktail'.

Suitably lubricated, the singing started well before soprano Danielle de Niese and Jonas Kaufmann took to the platform to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the screen classic 'The Sound of Music'. By the time Elgar's *Pomp and Circumstance No. 1* was introduced, the party was rocking.

Copythorne chairman, 'Ginge' Kinley, sang the praises of the Riders' branch members and 'the kitchen team' who had worked all day to make the event a success. He even claimed he had once sung from Henry Wood's *Promenade!* Branch Poppy Appeal Organiser Helen Kinley reported that that the Poppy Prom had raised £559 which carried the Branch total for the year to over £26,000.



## Feast of music at Eastleigh Festival



The Eastleigh, Chandlers Ford and District Branch have for many years staged an outstanding Festival of Remembrance Concert at *The Point* in Eastleigh.

This year's Festival is being held on Sunday, October 25 at 7.30pm and once again, the very popular Otterbourne Brass will present a varied and entertaining repertoire of musical items, ably supported by the Wyvern College Choir, a remarkable group of enthusiastic young singers who together are guaranteed to provide a memorable evening of music and song.

Traditionally the evening ends with a short Act of Remembrance that will be led by the Revd. Dr Richard Palmer.

Tickets are currently available from the Box Office (Telephone: 02380 652333) at £10 (no concessions). The Box Office is open: Monday to Friday between 9.30am - 5.30pm and on Saturdays between 9.30am - 3pm (closing times may vary depending on events).

## Bids, bargains and box-loads of fun



The Harvest Festival Service, Supper and Produce Auction at the Old Basing Club never disappoints and once again this year it had it all - a solemn service of thanksgiving, two 'old chestnut' hymns, a tasty ploughman's supper followed by apple pie and ice cream and an auction that produced both laughs and a healthy donation for the Poppy Appeal Fund.

Organised by the Old Basing Branch, the produce auction raised almost £265, an increase on last year's total.

The Reverend Alex Batty conducted the Service of Thanksgiving, assisted by his Curate from the local Parish Church. The traditional harvest hymns, 'All things bright and beautiful' and 'We plough the fields and scatter' were sung with gusto.

Following the buffet supper, the Branch PAO, Tim Russell, demonstrated why he plies his trade as a salesman. Produce on the stage was loaded into bags and Tim extolled the virtues of the 'goodies' before screwing every last penny out of the willing donors.

Everyone went home laden with bread, fruit, vegetables, plants, tins and bottles of wine; leaving the Old Basing Club with smiles on their faces.

"I want to extend a huge thank you to everyone who donated so much food," says Tim Russell. It filled the stage. Special mentions must go to The Reverend Alex Batty for the Service, Pat Down for the excellent buffet and John Down who organised the display."



He calls it creative selling ...  
Tim Russell invites bids for a carton of food, describing it as 'a complete evening in a box'!!

## Bold future plans in Totton

The Totton & Eling Branch of the Royal British Legion is modernising. They are now recruiting new volunteers and members, with new ideas and energy to help change our charity into the modern, fundraising organisation that it feels we must become. The Branch is now on-line, on Facebook and they have begun to modernise their branch both in structure and outlook.

Due to the hard work of their members and incredible kindness of the people of Totton and Eling and the surrounding area, they have raised over £23,000 for The Royal British Legion this year alone.

They are now looking to recruit a new volunteer Chairperson from outside of the branch who will bring new ideas and new methods to the branch. He or she will play a lead role in future strategy, governance, and day-to-day guidance of the branch management team. They are seeking a Chairperson with good management skills to take them forward in the coming years. Armed Forces experience is not essential.

They are asking anyone interested in joining them as Chairperson or who would like to join their Branch in any other role to contact [legion@compark.co.uk](mailto:legion@compark.co.uk) or go to [www.tottonelinglegion.org](http://www.tottonelinglegion.org).

## COUNTY NEWS

### Hampshire County Conference

With only days to go before the Hampshire County Conference we remind you that it takes place at the Jubilee Hall in Bishops Waltham, beginning at 10.00am on Saturday, October 10.

Branch delegates will only be eligible if the Area Office has received the Branch MS1 for 2014/15 and the Branch R & P for June 2015 by September 30, 2015 and conference luncheon forms should have been received by September 30.

Once again the Conference Committee asks that branches donate prizes for the Poppy Appeal Draw and bring them on the morning of conference.

Your assistance with these matters would be greatly appreciated.

### Cluster series ends on a high

The 2015 series of Cluster Meetings ended at the end of September with representatives from branches and clubs gathering in Portsmouth and Southampton. As was the case twelve months ago the attendance at these two meetings was much higher than at those in Farnborough, Old Basing, Andover and Romsey.

Not only was the attendance encouraging but, somewhat surprisingly, there was greater representation from clubs than branches. There is a general consensus across the county that the major causes of frustration are the new membership payment scheme, the difficulties in contacting Haig House and the Area Office and the door-to-door lottery.

Ideas were discussed, opinions expressed, experiences shared and help requested and it is now time to analyse the outcomes, take suggestions to the County Committee, investigate means of easing the frustrations and find ways of better supporting the branches and clubs.

Very sincere thanks go to those individuals who gave their time to represent their members and it would seem that those that attended found the sessions constructive, useful and enjoyable.

The fact remains that almost 70% of branches and clubs were not represented and one priority must now be to identify ways in which the County Committee can more directly engage with these groups.

### Calling all golfers

Rick Bourne would still be delighted to hear from anyone wishing to play in the popular Team Texas Scramble Golf Competition which will be taking place at East Horton Golf Club (near Marwell) on Monday, October 19. The entry fee of £37 per head will include prizes. This is a branch team tournament and you are invited to enter a team of four. If you wish further information please contact our County Golf Secretary, Rick Bourne: ([rbourne@glenair.co.uk](mailto:rbourne@glenair.co.uk))

## Happy birthday

It's true ... time flies when you are having fun ... and can you believe it that the Hampshire, Dorset & the Isle of Wight 'Pop-In' information and Advice Centre in Southampton has just celebrated its first birthday? Opened on September 3, 2014, the centre has been providing information and advice to members of the Service and ex-Service communities along with numerous members of the general public. To mark the first birthday the ground floor was gaily decorated and our Area Administrator, Hannah Leppard, cut the first slice of the special cake purchased to mark the occasion.



If you haven't yet taken the opportunity to visit the new Pop-In Area Advice and Information Centre it 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 Membership Support Officer, 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.

## STANDARD BEARERS

### On Parade Please

#### Standard Bearers are required on the following dates:

Sat 10 Oct	County Conference - Standards to report at 09.00hrs
Sun 25 Oct	Eastleigh Festival of Remembrance - Steve Forward will confirm timings later
Sat 31 Oct	There is a football match at the Eastleigh Ground, Stoneham Lane, and Standards are requested to form a guard of honour. Standard Bearers and their guests will be invited to see the game free of charge. The match is part of the Vanarama National League and the visiting team is Halifax Town. Names to Steve as soon as possible please.
Sun 1 Nov	Southampton Festival of Remembrance at the Mayflower theatre. As many Standards as possible.

## 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 - October 11 at 2.00pm

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

## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations go to the winners of the 2015 Hampshire County Standard Bearer's competition which was held at the end of last month.

David Graham (Milford-on-Sea) won the Hampshire Royal British Legion title while Karen Graham (Milford-on-Sea) won the Women's Section competition.

Thanks go to the Hampshire RBL Women's Section who organised this year's competition at Jubilee Hall in Bishops Waltham and to the judges.

## LEST WE FORGET

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

Mr H Budden	Gosport & Alverstoke
Mrs B Beavis	Romsey
Maj. Gen. J S Chester	Itchen Valley
Major J Dunning	Romsey
Capt. B Hutchings	Hartley Wintney
Mrs J Kenworthy	Copythorne & District
Mr M Rice	Hartley Wintney
Major General Shaw	Hartley Wintney
Mr C Stewart	Copythorne & District

# NATIONAL

There has been concern expressed among the membership about the introduction and implementation of the new membership payment scheme. We have recently received these explanatory notes from the Membership Department in Haig House.

## **Renewal Letters**

We have started to send renewal letters to existing members. When they renew, members will have more choice of payment: by Direct Debit, cheque, credit or debit card, bank transfer, continuous payment, by cash with PayPoint or at a branch. As with new members, we will send out membership cards once we have received payment – members' existing cards will be valid until the end of the year.

## **Key Dates**

- 18<sup>th</sup> September 2015 - Renewal letters started to be despatched
- 27<sup>th</sup> September 2015 – We expect all UK members to have received their renewal letter
- 16<sup>th</sup> October 2015 – Direct Debit collection for the over 140,000 members who have chosen to pay this way
- 16<sup>th</sup> November 2015 – We are asking all other members to make payment by this date to ensure that their membership doesn't lapse. Their current membership cards will remain valid until the end of the year

## **Importance of these changes and cash payments**

The changes are important to improve our relationship with our members and to modernise our systems. Our old database was obsolete, which represented an unacceptable risk from both an operational and security perspective for the Legion. By updating our systems, we will be able to support the Legion through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

The new system will bring longer-term savings and benefits. We will be able to streamline our existing processes, and have increased new payment options for our members. Meanwhile, bringing all of our members' details into a single, updated database will allow us to improve communications.

We have already welcomed 3,200 new members to the Legion through our new system, and these changes are important to us being able to attract a wider and younger audience. However, we understand how important the ability to pay by cash is to some of our members which is why we have ensured that members can pay through a PayPoint outlet, as the easiest cash option, or alternatively by taking cash and their individual renewal form to their branch.

## **Process if a member tells a branch that they would like to pay cash**

If a member comes into the branch, asking to pay by cash, the easiest way is to encourage them to pay at their nearest Paypoint outlet. The member will need their Renewal Letter with the individual bar code so that their payment can be assigned to their membership. There are 28,000 PayPoint outlets in the United Kingdom, You can find your nearest outlet by looking out for the PayPoint logo on convenience stores in the area, or by visiting <https://paypoint.com/en-gb>

Alternatively, you can accept the cash payment, along with the remittance slip on the renewal form and send an individual branch cheque to the address on the form. It is important that payments are not sent to Haig House as this will cause a delay for the member. If this payment option is chosen, we will need to receive the full amount on the renewal letter made up of:-

- The membership fee of £16
- The branch administration fee that you have informed us of
- The club fee if applicable. Please note that some clubs will be collecting club fees directly from their members

We will send all collected administration and joining fees to branches shortly after the renewal process closes.

### **Renewal Reports**

As the renewals process will now be managed centrally, we will not be sending branches their branch listings directly. Branch officials can find a list of their members on Office 365 or request this from their Membership Support Officer. There will also be a report in Office 365, updated weekly, of successful membership renewals. It is worth noting that members who have chosen to pay by Direct Debit will not show on these reports until after their payment has been successfully collected on the 16<sup>th</sup> October 2015. If you have any questions or need support with Office 365, please contact your Membership Support Officer in the first instance.

### **Replacement Renewal Letters**

If a member advises you that they have not received their renewal letter or it has been lost or damaged, the easiest way for them to renew their membership is by going online to [www.britishlegion.org.uk/renewal](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/renewal) and following the instructions on the page, or by calling freephone 0808 802 8080, (8am – 8pm, seven days a week).

If this is not possible, a duplicate renewal letter will be needed and you should contact your Membership Support Officer or the Membership Services Team to arrange this.

### **Replacement Membership Cards**

From 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015, if a member requests a replacement membership card, the first card will be issued free of charge. Please advise the member to contact the Membership Services Team by emailing [membershipservices@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:membershipservices@britishlegion.org.uk) to request a replacement card. There will be a charge of £2.50 applied for each subsequent replacement membership card.

### **Your support**

We appreciate that this year's renewals process will be significantly different for your branch but we know that you will continue to support our members and help them through this change. We are committed to bringing as many members as possible with us on this journey and we hope that you will work with us to make it a success. For the reasons outlined earlier, these changes are vital to ensure that the Legion remains a growing membership organisation with widening appeal.

## EVENTS DIARY

### What's On.....

#### 10 October 2015

Hampshire County Conference  
Jubilee Hall, Bishops Waltham  
Further details: [s.harris@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:s.harris@britishlegion.org.uk)

#### 19 October 2015

Team Texas Scramble  
East Horton Golf Course nr. Fair Oak  
Further details: [rbourne@glenair.co.uk](mailto:rbourne@glenair.co.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](mailto:c.peppiatt@britishlegion.org.uk)  
02380 477274

#### 25 October 2015

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

#### 30 October 2015

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

#### 31 October 2015

Encore Choir  
(Hosted by the Milford-on-Sea Branch)  
All Saints Church, Milford-on-Sea  
7.30pm  
Tickets: £9 (£10 on the door)  
Further details: Jan England 01590 642291

#### 1 November 2015

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

#### 1 November 2015

Hampshire Festival of Remembrance  
Mayflower Theatre, Southampton  
7.30pm  
Tickets: £16.50 - £21.50  
Further details: [c.peppiatt@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:c.peppiatt@britishlegion.org.uk)  
02380 477274

#### 7 November 2015

RBL Festival of Remembrance  
Royal Albert Hall, London

#### 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

## 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](mailto:jshantsrbl@hotmail.com)

ALL OTHER ENQUIRIES TO THE CONTACT CENTRE ON 0808 802 8080



**MICHELMERSH SILVER BAND**  
(In association with the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal)  
presents



# **FOR THE FALLEN**

## **A concert of Remembrance**

ON  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November  
7.30 pm

IN THE  
**UNITED REFORM CHURCH**  
**ROMSEY**

Tickets: £10 (Concessions £9)  
Available from The Heritage and Visitor  
Centre, Church Street, Romsey  
Tel: 01794 512987

With proceeds to The Royal British Legion

# POPPY APPEAL

# ENCORE CHOIR

A MUSIC FILLED EVENING  
of popular and well known songs & featuring  
'Reeds in Harmony' Saxophone Quartet

## Saturday 31st October

All Saints Parish Church, Church Hill

Milford on Sea 7.30 pm

Advance Ticket £9

On door £10

Incl. Interval refreshment

Available from Village News

