



# HAMPSHIRE LINK

FEBRUARY, 2016

CHARITY NO 219279

## Hampshire welcomes new County Patron



Lieutenant-General Sir Mark Mans KCB CBE DL is the new County Patron of Hampshire Royal British Legion. He succeeds Dame Mary Fagan who stepped down as County Patron last October.

Sir Mark was commissioned into the Royal Engineers in 1974 and served with Regional Forces and in Northern Ireland before his appointment as Officer Commanding 37 Field Support Squadron during the Gulf War.

He was later deployed in Bosnia and in February 2005 became Deputy Commanding General of the Multi-National Force – Iraq.

He served as Deputy Adjutant General from 2006 to 2008 when he became Military Secretary. In September 2009 he was appointed Commander of Regional Forces at Land Command. Then in December 2009 he was made Adjutant-General to the Forces with responsibility for both personnel and support.

He was awarded the Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service in 1996, appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in the 2005 Birthday Honours, and awarded the American Legion of Merit in December 2006. He was appointed Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath (KCB) in the 2012 New Year Honours. Sir Mark was appointed the Chief Royal Engineer on September 14, 2013.

At the end of January Sir Mark, accompanied by County President, Brigadier David Harrison, visited the Area Pop-In and Information Centre in Southampton. Having viewed the facilities in the Information Centre he toured the first floor Area Offices and met Area staff before receiving briefings from the Area Manager, Jim France and the County Chairman, John Smith.

Before leaving the Area Office Lieutenant-General Sir Mark Mans confirmed that he was happy to accept the County Committee's invitation to become the new County Patron and, no doubt, we will be see more of Sir Mark and his wife, Lady Jane Mans, at events later in the year.

We remind members that all approaches to the Hampshire County Patron must be made through the Membership Support Officer or County Chairman at the Area Office;  
104 Above Bar, Southampton, Hampshire, SO14 7DT

## BRANCH NEWS

### Bramley bounces back

Vice President, Rhydian Vaughan, was convinced there was 'still a pulse' beating away within the ailing Bramley Branch. Without a chairman, with a distinct shortage of committee members and experiencing a dwindling membership, he and octogenarian Branch President, John Ferguson, refused to let the branch die.



They met with the Hampshire MSO and County Chairman and it was agreed that a Special General Meeting should be called. John Ferguson and Rhydian Vaughan contacted the membership and urged them to rally to the call.

They were right; there was a pulse and the SGM was well attended. Ferguson and Vaughan stepped down as President and Vice President and put themselves forward as Chairman and Vice Chairman. An enthusiastic new secretary was elected, the existing treasurer was re-elected and they had little trouble in voting in three additional committee members. They are now approaching their first committee meeting and will make the necessary appointments and discuss the all-important social and welfare programme.

Two very loyal Legion members were not prepared to let their branch die and are to be congratulated on finding 'the pulse' and re-energising the Bramley Branch - examples to us all.

### Requirements and responsibilities

Submitting branch accounts by September 31 and completing MS1 forms by December 31 are Royal British Legion requirements. The Membership Council will consider closing one particular thriving and very active branch at the end of this month as they have not submitted their accounts for two years, a situation the Legion must act upon in accordance with the Charity Act. By February 1, 21 of Hampshire's 62 branches had still not submitted their MS1 forms which carry the heading:

*"All sections of this form must be completed. Section 1 of this form must be completed by the Branch Secretary after the Branch Annual General Meeting. The Branch Welfare Committee Secretary must complete Section 2. Please complete this form **in capitals** and return it to the staff Membership Support Officer."*

Few of the MS1's returned comply fully with these guidelines and many failed to complete Section 6: *Certificate of Acknowledgement of Responsibility*. Elected and appointed members of branch committees must sign Section 6, thereby accepting their duties and responsibilities as Branch Managing Trustees as required by the Board of Trustees, the Royal Charter and the Charity Act.

The Area Office await forms from: Andover & District, Basingstoke, Overton & District, Bishops Waltham & District, Cosham, Curdridge, Damerham & Western Downland, Fordingbridge, Hurstbourne Tarrant, Liss, Netley Abbey & Hamble, Portsmouth South, Preston Candover & District, Southampton, St Mary Bourne, Twyford & District, Wallops & District, Wickham, Woodgreen & Breamore, Woolston and The Worthies. Despite approaches from the Area Office the Dummer Branch has not submitted an MS1 form since 2006.

Branch accounts from Basingstoke, Hurstbourne Tarrant, Itchen Valley, Portsmouth South, Romsey and Wickham are still outstanding from September 31, 2015.

## Weekend & holiday breaks for beneficiaries

Months of patient negotiation have resulted in Hampshire's Brockenhurst Branch making a major contribution to a 'Poppy Pod' Project that was first mooted in 2012.

On January 20 the branch handed a cheque for £50,000 to Hampshire County Council as a donation towards the build costs of the pods at their Tile Barn Centre site. The scheme will see 20 pre-constructed camping pods and a central communal hub added to the facilities already offered by the centre's camping and outdoor activity assets. More importantly it will become a thank-you legacy to Britain's Armed Services personnel past, present and future. Service families will be given priority and offered free occupancy at weekends and during school holidays.

For three years fund-raising openings were pursued and a breakthrough came when a grant for £250,000 was received from the Armed Forces Community Covenant. The Brockenhurst Branch held a sizeable sum of legacy monies centrally and after protracted negotiations persuaded the RBL HQ to let them use some of this money as a grant which would enable Hampshire County Council to fund the central hub. This serves to demonstrate how branches might use legacy or other funds held centrally where trust or will conditions insist that the money be spent on beneficiaries locally.

The Tile Barn site served as a temporary tented hospital for Indian WW1 casualties before, in 1916, a more substantial establishment: No.1 New Zealand General Hospital dealt with around 21,000 casualties evacuated from the Western Front.

"With *Poppy Pod* priority booking being given to service families, particularly those with disabilities in their ranks, it is wonderfully appropriate that an element of military rehabilitation will again feature on Tile Barn Hill," says Brockenhurst Chairman, Captain Mike Matthews. "The branch is able to help thanks to two handsome bequests left to us in the wills of Mrs Chalk and Mrs Humphries. I'm sure that both ladies are smiling down on this day."

The formal opening of the new facilities will take place in the spring in time for the Tile Barn Centre's new season. The Community Hub will be used by the Branch on ANZAC Sunday for hosting visitors and will also support the major commemoration event to mark the Battle of the Somme centenary at the end of June.



The Brockenhurst 'Poppy Pods'



Brockenhurst Branch Chairman, Captain Mike Matthews (left), presenting the cheque for £50,000 to Councillor Andrew Gibson - Executive Member for Culture, Recreation & Countryside on Hampshire County Council



Brockenhurst Branch members attend the presentation

# COUNTY NEWS

## County Welfare Fund

Our County Treasurer, Brian Soffe, writes:

May I take this opportunity to thank the 10 branches that have donated a sum of £8,750 to the County Welfare Fund? We have also received a sum of £3,363 from the Hampshire Central Branch when it closed, due to transferring to the National Central Branch.

May I make a plea to those branches that have funds to also make a contribution to assist our friends in need? Cheques should be made payable to 'Royal British Legion' and sent to the County Treasurer at Royal British Legion, 104 Above Bar, Southampton, SO14 7DT.

Those wishing to make a transfer from their branch bank account should make transfers payable to Hampshire RBL Committee on account No. 1044 2690 sort code 20-79-25 of Barclays Bank and do please indicate whether the donation is for the Welfare Fund or the General Fund by email or post.

My best wishes to you all.

Brian C N Soffe  
County Treasurer

## Helping Hampshire beneficiaries - 2014-2015

During last year's Cluster Meetings representatives from a number of branches asked how the money forwarded to the Welfare Fund was used in Hampshire. Our Area Manager, Jim France, recently received the latest information concerning grants to beneficiaries in the county and we are now able to provide these broad figures. Details about individual grants are obviously confidential.

GRANT CATEGORIES	NUMBER OF AWARDS	TOTAL VALUE OF AWARDS	AVERAGE AGE
CRISIS	43	£7,227	46
BROWN GOODS	92	£40,365	51
DEBT	28	£17,617	47
FUNERALS	17	£22,590	63
HOUSING	117	£86,858	49
MAGs	33	£9,190	77
MEDICAL	4	£2,065	33
MISCELLANEOUS	20	£11,841	45
MOBILITY	144	£98,790	71
TRAINING	14	£9,475	36
WHITE GOODS	100	£30,794	55
<b><u>TOTALS:</u></b>	<b><u>612 individuals</u></b>	<b><u>£336,812</u></b>	<b><u>Average 56 yrs</u></b>

## Where does the money go in Hampshire?

Almonisation information is circulated to County Treasurers quarterly and a recent information sheet identified the various categories of support provided within Hampshire, the value of each grant and the postal area in which it was provided for the beneficiary. No other identifying information is given for reasons of confidentiality but we can confirm that grants were awarded between April and June 2015 in the following areas:

Aldershot (6), Alton (1), Andover (4), Basingstoke (5), Fareham (3), Gosport (4), Havant (1), Lee-on-the-Solent (3), New Milton (1), Portsmouth (8), Ringwood (6), Southampton (18), Southsea (3), Waterlooville (3) and Winchester (2).

This is, of course, a snapshot of three months last summer and from time to time the areas in which the grants will be awarded will vary and the number of beneficiaries will rise and fall depending on the referrals entered into the system by Legion case workers.

## County Handbook 2016

Branches failing to return their MS1 forms, completed, signed and addressed to the Membership Support Officer are causing additional administrative difficulties in the Area Office. The County Handbook is a very useful contact booklet that enables one branch to communicate with another. We are aware that in recent years it hasn't appeared until the middle of the year and are eager to circulate the 2016 edition much earlier. Thanks to branches that have forwarded their MS1's in good time most of the contact information has been set for the printers but, once again, the late submission by some branches is now delaying the printing and publication of the County Handbook. Your co-operation would be really appreciated.

## Admiral Nurses

At their January meeting, County Committee members heard an impressive presentation by Adam Smith, Hampshire RBL lead of the Admiral Nursing Service, which is now based at the Area Office.

The Admiral Nurse Service works in partnership with Dementia UK and offers specialist support, information and advice to carers and families of those with dementia. The Admiral nurses are registered nurses specialising in dementia. The service aims to help family carers gain the necessary skills to assist with dementia care, promote positive approaches in living well with dementia and improving quality of life.

To qualify for this service the carer or person with dementia needs to be a beneficiary of The Royal British Legion. This includes anyone who has served in the British Armed Forces, their family and carers. The service offers:

- Skilled assessment of the needs of the carers, families and individuals with dementia
- Psychological support to understand and deal with feelings and emotions
- Practical advice
- Helping carers to develop and improve skills in care giving
- Guidance on eligibility for other Legion support and services
- Referral to treatment and support services
- Therapeutic, educational and social support carer groups
- Guidance on appropriate local services and sources of support
- Liaison with other professionals to ensure families obtain co-ordinated support

For further information call the Hampshire RBL Admiral Nurse team on 02382 025787



## Make a difference

The Royal British Legion always welcomes anyone wishing to go that extra mile. There are numerous volunteering opportunities available, from Poppy Appeal collecting to helping our beneficiaries directly as a caseworker, and every role makes a huge difference to our Armed Forces Community.

The Area team are particularly eager to enlist the services of enthusiastic volunteers willing to help in the Hampshire Advice & Information Centre in Southampton. To declare an interest please call 0808 802 8080 or visit the Centre at 104, Above Bar, Southampton. SO14 7DT.

## EVENTS DIARY

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

#### **6 February 2016**

Verdi Requiem

The Anvil Theatre, Basingstoke at 7.30pm

In aid of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

Tickets: £16, £19 (concessions available)

Contact: 01256 844244 or box.office@anvilarts.org.uk

#### **13 February 2016**

Regional Standard Bearers competition

Bovington Camp, Dorset

Contact: stevemo@stevemo.plus.com

#### **13 March 2016**

More Miller Magic

The Astor Big Band

The Kings Theatre, Southsea at 2.30pm

In aid of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

Contact: 02392 828282

#### **21 April 2016**

Beacon Lighting in Southampton

To commemorate HM Queen's actual 90<sup>th</sup> birthday  
Beneath the Bargate

#### **21/22 May 2016**

RBL 2016 National Conference

Eastbourne Conference Centre

#### **11 June 2016**

Garden Party

To commemorate HM Queen's official 90<sup>th</sup> birthday  
Palmerston Park, Southampton  
Details: To be confirmed

#### **20 June 2016**

Armed Forces Day Golf competition

Sherfield Course near Basingstoke

Contact: rbourne@glenair.co.uk

#### **14 August 2016**

Hampshire Standard Bearers competition

Jubilee Hall, Bishops Waltham

Contact: stevemo@stevemo.plus.com

#### **4 September 2016**

Earl Mountbatten Memorial Service

Organised by the Earl Mountbatten Memorial Branch  
Romsey Abbey

Contact: melvyncole54@yahoo.co.uk

#### **9 September 2016**

Old Basing Golf competition

Sherfield Course near Basingstoke

Contact: rbourne@glenair.co.uk

#### **15 September 2016**

Hampshire County Conference

Jubilee Hall, Bishops Waltham

Contact: bordondistrict.secretary@rbl.community

#### **29 October 2016**

Hampshire County Poppy Launch

Princess Mead, Farnborough

Details: To be confirmed

Contact: dmoore@britishlegion.org.uk

#### **13 November 2016**

Remembrance Sunday



# VERDI REQUIEM

**Saturday 6th February 2016, 7.30pm**

The Anvil, Basingstoke

Sally Silver | Anna Loveday | Edward Hughes | John Lofthouse

## Bruch Violin Concerto no.1

Soloist: Emily Mowbray



DEANE  
SINFONIA

Leader: Diane Wakefield

Conductor: John Fuller

TICKETS: £16 £19. over 65s £2 off.  
under 16s and full-time students £8  
(all including £1 booking fee)

01256 844244 or [box.office@anvilarts.org.uk](mailto:box.office@anvilarts.org.uk)

In aid of the Royal British Legion





## The Astor Big Band Presents



**A host of Glenn Miller's No.1 Hits**, including *In the Mood*, *Tuxedo Junction*, *American Patrol*, *Serenade in Blue*.

**Plus** the Big Band hits of **Frank Sinatra**, **Bing Crosby** and **The Andrews Sisters**.

**And** songs from West End musicals including *West Side Story* and *Les Miserables*, all in the **unmistakable Glenn Miller Style**.

**Also featuring our vocal group and strictly miller dancers  
From The Royal Beach Tea Dance Group**



**KINGS** PORTSMOUTH  
**THEATRE**

**Sunday 13th March 2.30pm**

**Box Office: 023 9282 82 82**  
**[www.kingsportsmouth.co.uk](http://www.kingsportsmouth.co.uk)**

**All of Astor Big Band's profits plus a collection made at this performance will be donated to the Royal British Legion Poppy**





## STANDARD BEARERS

### Standard Bearer's dates announced

Branch Officers are asked to encourage their Standard Bearer to attend at least one Standard Bearer's School during 2016. The schools are held monthly at Eastleigh and Lymington. Disappointingly, from over 60 Branches only three or four individuals attend each session and our County Parade Marshal, Steve Forward, would certainly welcome more.

Sunday, March 13	Pavilion on the Park, Eastleigh	2.00pm
Monday, March 14	TA Drill Hall, Bath Road, Lymington	7.30pm
Sunday, April 10	Pavilion on the Park, Eastleigh	2.00pm
Monday, April 11	TA Drill Hall, Bath Road, Lymington	7.30pm
Sunday, May 8	Pavilion on the Park, Eastleigh	2.00pm
Monday, May 9	TA Drill Hall, Bath Road, Lymington	7.30pm
Sunday, June 12	Pavilion on the Park, Eastleigh	2.00pm
Monday, June 13	TA Drill Hall, Bath Road, Lymington	7.30pm

Steve satisfies all requests for Standard Bearers with a very limited pool of carriers to call upon. It is hoped that more individuals will make themselves available when help is required.

### Jutland Commemoration

The Royal Navy are to hold a major parade and service in Portsmouth on Tuesday, May 31 to commemorate the centenary of the Battle of Jutland. The battle brought together the two most powerful naval powers of 1916 and was the pivotal naval engagement of the war with 6,000 British and 2,500 Germans lost.

The battle was fought on the afternoon and evening of May 31 and into the small hours of June 1, 1916, when 250 men



Our Area Manager is a member of the planning group and Hampshire Royal British Legion has an opportunity to participate in this important commemorative event. Standard Bearers wishing to be considered for the parade should contact Hampshire Parade Marshal, Steve Forward, on 02380 693028 or via [stevemo@stevemo.plus.com](mailto:stevemo@stevemo.plus.com) at the earliest opportunity.

### MSO update

Six candidates are to be interviewed on Tuesday, February 2 for the vacant position of Hampshire Royal British Legion Membership Support Officer. It may be some time before the successful candidate is announced and in post and therefore members are once again asked to direct all Hampshire enquiries through the National Helpline Freephone:

**0808 802 8080**

## LEST WE FORGET

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

Mr Jack Brindley	Brockenhurst
Mr Christopher Hayles	Eastleigh, Chandlers Ford & District
Mr Hamish Roberts	Brockenhurst
Mr Anthony Smith	Fareham
Mr Andrew Taylor	Petersfield & District
Mr Edward Trehearne	Milford-on-Sea
Lt. Gen. Sir Christopher Wallace KBE	Hartley Wintney
Squadron Ldr. Geoffrey White	Headley & District

## PLEASE SEND US YOUR NEWS

If you are organising an event, function or interesting activity or if you have a special person in your branch who deserves recognition please contact *Hampshire Link*. Simply send the information to the e-mail address below.

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

**ALL OTHER ENQUIRIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO 0808 802 8080**