



Hampshire Link

The Newsletter of Hampshire County
104 Above Bar Street
Southampton
Hampshire
SO14 7DT



May 2016 Edition

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Mr Ian Welesy Davies & Mr Wally Marr – Winchester Branch

Our Sincere Condolences to Family and Friends

National News

Insult to Injury Campaign

In the March Budget the Chancellor announced that the Government would rectify the anomaly that saw some injured veterans surrender most of their compensation to pay for social care. From April 2017, national charging guidance will be amended to ensure that all veterans in **England** have their military compensation payments protected when accessing social care support from their local authority.

Whilst we welcome the Chancellors announcement, it is disappointing that it is going to take another year for it to come into force; however we look forward to working with the Government to ensure the new rules are applied across the rest of the United Kingdom.

The Welsh Government has previously announced that, from next month, the amount of War Disablement Pension routinely disregarded by councils will increase from £10 a week to £25 a week., alongside this they are committed to incrementally increase the level of disregard over the course of the Assembly Term. Whilst this is a welcomed step in the right direction, we will be going back to the Welsh Government to encourage them to ensure a total disregard is implemented by April 2017. In Scotland and Northern Ireland, where their social care systems are different, we will continue to make representation to ensure that the changes announced today are replicated across the UK.

Thank you to everyone who has supported this long-running campaign—together we've secured another landmark campaign win for our beneficiaries.

Charity and Staff Volunteers Awards – Winner

Hampshire County Caseworker Pat Prior won the Lifetime Achievement Category of the Charity & Staff Volunteer Awards on Friday 4th March at a formal ceremony in London; the awards celebrate outstanding dedication and achievements made by charity staff & volunteers across the UK.

Pat said “I am very humbled that I won the award, I'm just one of the many who volunteer because we love it.”

Pat served a total of 37 years in the RN and the Reserves and says it was a natural progression for her to give something back, “I assisted with the Poppy Appeal most years since 1969 and become a regular member and volunteer in the 1990's.”

Pat would recommend volunteering to everyone for the satisfaction of knowing and seeing the end results.



Membership Handbook

At the 24th February 2016 meeting The Membership Council approved the issue of the new version of the Membership Handbook. The Feb 2016 issue is now online for Branches in the [Membership Documents](#) area.

There are a number of major revisions including:

- An introduction to the Membership Handbook in part 1.
- Previous parts “Part 3 `Groups` and Part 4 `Branches`” now form Part 3.
- A new Part 4 that collates templates and forms previously situated throughout the handbook.
- Revisions in line with the new Membership Renewal processes.
- Revisions to the format and submissions of Bye-Laws
- Financial compliance changes regarding Branch Bank accounts

Please ensure that all Branch Officers, Committee members and members are made aware of the changes.

RBL Induction Training

There is now a general introduction to the Legion that has been produced by the Volunteer Support Unit and as such is a good background and is in effect as well as Membership-based training. Widest access was resolved by making it available on-line, with no extra log in or password, on the Legion website, and can be accessed by anyone.

<http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer/why-volunteer-with-us/>

Hampshire County News

Election of County Chairman

The nomination phase of the election for the new Hampshire County Chairman is coming to a close; all Branches should ensure that their nominations are sent back to the Area Office by 5pm 12th May 2016.

The nominations will then be checked to ensure eligibility, and ballot papers will be distributed on 26th May 2016 if required. If only one nomination is received then that person will be deemed duly elected as per the Membership Handbook regulations and ballot papers will not be required. In this case the new Chairman will take post immediately.

Hampshire County Conference

The Hampshire County Conference has been moved from October 2016 until 21st January 2017, this is to bring Hampshire into line with the Revised Membership Handbook (Rev Feb 2016), the Conference remain at Jubilee Hall, Bishops Waltham.

Branches are reminded that delegates will only be allowed to vote at Conference if their Accounts and MS1`s have been submitted correctly to the Area office.

The Chairman of the County Conference is looking for feedback from Branches on how to improve the County Conference, and how to attract more Branches to send delegates; whilst the main agenda is set down in the Membership handbook, there may be ways in which the Conference could be improved for the benefit

of the County membership. If you have any suggestions then please contact the Conference Chairman, Darron Back at bordondistrict.secretary@rbl.community

County Committee

The County Committee would like to invite members of Hampshire Branches to attend and observe the County Committee when we meet, whilst you would have no voting rights on any matters arising, your input at a meeting could benefit the entire County. If you would like to attend a meeting we will be meeting at the following locations and dates below: (All meetings start at 1900hrs)

Wednesday 22nd June – Farnborough - Council Chambers

Monday 22nd August – Southampton – Area Office

Wednesday 26th October – Old Basing RBL Club

You may find that you have the answers required to help all Branches within the County and would like to join the County Committee on a full time basis, we are looking to Co-Opt some new members to assist with the Committee until the next County Conference, when all those Co-Opted or have fulfilled their current terms will be up for re-election. If you would like to be Co-Opted onto the committee then please send a short CV to either the County [Vice-Chairman](#) or through the Hampshire Link.

BFI Accounts

Just to advise you that the quarterly BFI statements for the period up to 31 December were not sent out in January – a fact you may already have been aware of.

Unfortunately at the last minute a small error came to light in relation to the interest calculated for the quarter and so we held back on distributing statements. Together with the arrival of the Legion's auditors and the IT issues many of us have been experiencing we have struggled to correct the issue in good time and took the decision to cancel sending out the statements for the December quarter end and will now send a statement out in April to cover two quarters.

Branch News

Copythorne & District – Paultons Park

[Paultons Park](#) has announced it will be raising money for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal following the success of raising nearly £6,000 in 2015 for its local Branch, Copythorne and District.



The family theme park has supported the Poppy Appeal for five years and aims to beat last year's fundraising efforts in 2016.

Since 2011, Paultons Park has raised almost £12,000 for the poppy Appeal, with visitors being encouraged to donate via Poppy Sellers. Volunteers are often based at the popular Hampshire theme park in Romsey where they are available to speak with visitors.

Paultons Park managing director, Richard Mancey said “We are so pleased to continue to support such a brilliant charity. The RBL is a true institution, and one which supports the lives and families of those in the Armed Forces.”

Brockenhurst – ANZAC`s Commemoration

The annual Commemoration Service for the 94 ANZACs who lie buried in the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery in St Nicholas Churchyard, Brockenhurst took place last Sunday. The Vicar, Rev`d Neil Smart, took the Service and the New Zealand High Commissioner, Sir Lockwood Smith, read the lesson. Jubilee Brass excelled themselves accompanying the singing and provided an impeccable rendering of the Last Post.

The RBL Branch President, Air Vice-Marshal Andrew Roberts, delivered the Exhortation, and before the Service started joined the High Commissioner and the two Defence representatives to inspect the youngsters who had marched up from the Station to the sound of the New Zealand Bell in St Nicholas Church being tolled 94 times.

A wonderful feature of this Service is the involvement of uniformed youth groups. Brockenhurst College Army Cadet Force members paraded their Standard, helped with the parking, stewarding and with the lunch and tea arrangements, Cadets from 1308 Sqn ATC paraded their ensign and half-masted the New Zealand Flag. Younger groups such as the Cubs, Scouts and Brownies paraded their Standards and at the climax of the service places posies on all the graves. This year both the New Zealand and Australian Defence representatives, Lt Cols Kate Lee and Malcolm Wells, had their families with them and they also placed posies. This was particularly meaningful for young Harry Lee for he placed his posy on the grave of one of his ancestors; these youngsters then helped their parents to lay wreaths on the monument.



After the Service on the way back up from the War Graves Cemetery to the Church Alexandra, Lady Smith, was invited by the Vicar to cut the ribbon between the handsome new guardrails beside the steps. These are a gift to the Church from the New Zealand Women`s Association and the New Zealand Society UK and key members of both were there to witness this event.

Many who had attended the Service then walked along to the Tile Barn Outdoor Centre for tea, now run by Hampshire County Council; a century ago this was the site of No. 1 New Zealand General Hospital, over 21,000 wounded evacuees from the Western Front were nursed and rehabilitated there over 3 years. This site`s facilities have recently been enhanced with the construction of a Poppy Pod Village – 20 fixed camping pods with a Hut at their centre for eating and recreational use. Many went out to inspect this impressive development and to hear the High Commissioner say how much he had enjoyed his second ANZAC Sunday visit to Brockenhurst, and he is looking forward to being back in Brockenhurst on 29th June for the unveiling of the Hospital Memorial window in St Nicholas Church as the centenary of the Hospital is celebrated.



Branch Chairman, Captain Mike Matthews, presented each of the principal guests - including Peter Francis from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission – with a book. “Today we are the first to use the Poppy Pod Hub” he commented “appropriate because it has been constructed using a £50,000 grant from our Branch to Hampshire County Council. Priority will be given to Service families, particularly those with disabilities in their ranks, who will get free use at weekends and during the summer holidays. It warms the cockles of our hearts to see the rehabilitation of Armed Forces personnel and their families being reintroduced at Tile Barn a century after it last flourished on the site.”

Totton and Eling – ASDA Bag pack

On Saturday 2nd April the Totton and Eling Branch and 2498 Sqn Totton ATC raised £515 by helping shoppers pack their bags in the ASDA Store in Totton. The proceeds were split between the two organisations as these funds are fundamental for both to help support people in many ways from injured soldiers to cadets undertaking their Duke of Edinburgh Awards. In addition a cheque for £200 was presented to the Totton and Eling Branch as it had received the greatest number of tokens in the “green token vote” held in the Totton Store.



Portsmouth South – Cockleshell Heroes



The Portsmouth South Branch paraded 11 Standards for the annual Cockleshell Heroes Remembrance Service on 17th April with the Royal Marines Association and the local Army Cadets.

Operation Frankton was a commando raid on shipping in German occupied French port in the Bay of Biscay in WW2 by a small unit of Royal Marines

known as the Royal Marines Boom Patrol Detachment (RMBPD).

The plan was for 6 canoes to be taken to the area by submarine; they would paddle up and attach limpet mines to the docked cargo ships. Only two of the ten men survived the raid, and the Prime Minister Winston Churchill believed the mission shortened the war by six months.



Poppy Appeal

The County Total for the Poppy Appeal is currently (as at 1st May 2016)

North - £731,656.80 ~ South - £808,168.10

• Hants Total - **£1,539,733.90**

Bramley Branch

The chairman of the Bramley Branch was pleasantly surprised to receive the following letter from Ranil Jayawardena, his local Member of Parliament, whilst all the Poppy volunteers raise funds selflessly, it is always nice to receive some recognition.

“Reading the Bramley Magazine recently, I was delighted to see that the Bramley branch of the Royal British Legion had enjoyed a particularly successful Poppy Appeal at Basingstoke Hospital last year. I understand the sum raised was in fact the largest amount gathered in one place across the whole of North Hampshire. Many congratulations for this fantastic achievement; it is a real testament to the dedication of your volunteers, and the generosity of the staff and patients at the hospital.”

As the Member of Parliament for an area with a proud military history, I am extremely grateful for the immense contribution you and your volunteers have made in supporting our armed forces veterans and their families”

Poppy Artworks by [Sally Mackness](#)

British abstract and expressionism artist Sally Mackness is producing 1,560 bespoke original artworks which will be used to raise funds specifically for South Hampshire and the Isle of Wight regions of the RBL.



Representing the number of days that the Great War lasted, Sally will be creating 3 variations on a theme and the paintings will be entitled **Remembrance (an abstract), Poppies** and **Flower Poppies**. Priced at £45 per artwork, 50% of the net proceeds of sale of the limited edition artworks will be donated to the RBL.

The Royal British Legion takes great pride in nurturing innovative ideas and concepts in order to raise awareness through fundraising efforts and South Hampshire and IOW Community Fundraiser Claire Peppiatt says “I have been privileged to view Sally’s initial artworks, which are stunning and evoked an emotional reaction from everyone I have shown. I’m confident this is going to be a most successful and productive working relationship”.

Events Diary

Date	Title	Location	Cost	Contact
8 th May	Spring Concert	Farnborough Club	£7.00	0776 702 5074 jgatfield@britishlegion.org.uk
16 th May	Hampshire RBL Golf Pairs	The Army Club, Aldershot	£43.00	rbourne@glenair.co.uk
21 st /22 nd May	National Conference	Eastbourne Conference Centre		
12 th June	The Queen`s Birthday			
15 th June	The Jutland Concert	Barbican Hall, London	£12.00- £35.00	0207 638 8891 Barbican.org.uk
20 th June	Armed Forces Day Golf Comp	Sherfield Course, nr Basingstoke		rbourne@glenair.co.uk
25 th June	Armed Forces Day			
4 th Sept	EMMB Service	Romsey Abbey		melvyncole54@yahoo.co.uk
9 th Sept	Old Basing Golf Comp	Sherfield Course, nr Basingstoke		rbourne@glenair.co.uk
29 th Oct	Poppy Launch	Princess Mead, Farnborough		dmoore@britishlegion.org.uk
11 th Nov	Remembrance Day			
13 th Nov	Remembrance Sunday			

Standard Bearers

Our County Parade Marshal, Steve Forward, would like to invite all Standard Bearers to partake in training sessions to ensure that they are kept current, Steve puts a lot of his own time in helping any Standard Bearers from all groups, not just the RBL.

The Annual Hampshire County Standard Bearers Competition takes place on Sunday October 9th and Jubilee Hall in Bishops Waltham, and Standard Bearers have to have attended at least one training session within the past 12 months to be allowed to enter.

Training takes place at the following locations and at the times specified:

Pavilion on the Park, Eastleigh, 1400hrs
Sundays
May 8 – Jun 12 – Aug 14 – Sep 11

TA Hall, Bath Road, Lymington 1930hrs
Mondays
May 9 – Jun 13 – Jul 11 – Aug 15 – Sep 12

The Annual Hampshire County Standard Bearers Competition takes place on Sunday October 9th and Jubilee Hall in Bishops Waltham

Contact Us

If you are organising or have organised an event, function or interesting activity that you wish to inform other Branches and RBL Members about, or if you have a special person in your Branch who deserves recognition, please contact the Hampshire Link. Simply send the information to the e-mail address below.

hampshirelink@outlook.com

Please ensure that if you enclose any photographs or pictures that you have the permission of the copyright holder for them to be reproduced.

All other inquiries should be directed to the National Helpline.

0808 802 8080

Come and enjoy a Sunday with
An early evening
Spring Concert

In Aid of the Poppy Appeal

Tea, Coffee and Wine available at the Bar
With The Farnborough Concert Band of
the Royal British Legion

Sunday May 8th

6.00pm

At the Royal British Legion Club

Cambridge Road East

Farnborough

Tickets £7.00

Including Cheese and Biscuits

Available behind the Bar or call

07767025074



LIVE ON

Hampshire R.B.L. County Sports 2016

Golf Pairs

14th March 2016

The Hampshire RBL County Pairs tournament returns to The Army Club, Aldershot on **MONDAY 16th MAY** for the 2016 event so please let's all support this event.

This golf course, one of the finest in North Hampshire is close to the home of the British Army and hosts many events for serving personnel. It 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 6300 yd par 71 features which run through gently sloping low level woodland.

We have secured a military-rate due to our RBL association so we have an excellent value day at £43.00 per person (£172 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. **As with last year the format has changed to a team of four with the best two individual scores in each becoming the best pairing.**

Tee-offs will commence from **930am** 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.

Closing date for entries and receipt of fees is FRIDAY 6th MAY (places are limited to 10 teams so first entries received will be given priority). Cheques may be post dated to 6th MAY.

The completed entry form attached **MUST** be accompanied by **FULL** payment (please photo-copy this form if you require more entry sheets.)

Cheques should be made payable to: **Mr, R. J. Bourne please.**

**SEND FORM AND PAYMENT TO: Rick Bourne, County Golf Secretary,
86 Cavalier Road, Old Basing, Hants. RG24 7ET. (07714 289157)**

So, don't delay, get that entry form in today



LIVE ON

