



Hampshire Link

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



Edition: August 2016

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Mr Martin Charlton – Old Basing
Miss Dorothy Gordon MBE – Winchester & District
Mrs Barbara Watkinson – Lovedean & Horndean & Women's Section

Our Sincere Condolences to Family and Friends

National News

Branch Community Support

The New welfare system for Branches is open for registration; this new way of operating Branch Welfare is aimed at supporting the Armed Forces Community in your local area. There are people living in the avenues, streets and roads near to you that need help, the RBL wants the support we offer to extend beyond the four walls of the Branches, this new approach is to build on what Branches are currently doing and expand upon it, it will also help Branches start to offer extra welfare support.

Branch Community Support falls under the following key activities:

- **Telephone Buddies** – Some people do not have family or are unable to speak as often as they wish, telephone buddies offer a way for the Branch to offer friendship and help reduce a person's social isolation.
- **Legion Awareness Events** – This is to bring the RBL to public attention and raise awareness of the support offered by the Legion, it could be a coffee morning, picnic or afternoon tea.
- **Home & Hospital Visitor** – Some people are unable to get out and about or go out alone, or are no longer be able continue social activities, they may not be able to visit a loved one in hospital or have no-one to visit if they are in hospital following ill health. This is a very important role as it may just provide that social contact that brings a routine back to an isolated person.
- **Bereavement Support** – There are 350,000 ex-Service men, women and their families recently bereaved, and it can affect them in different ways, and there is no right or wrong way to cope with the loss of a loved one. Bereavement support is a vital and rewarding aspect then may take many forms: including help with funeral arrangements, contacting local Branches for Standard Bearers or just someone to talk to.
- **Local Touch Points** – There are many serving and ex-service people and their families who are hard to reach, meaning they may be unaware of the services the Legion can offer. In partnership with the Area Office, you can help provide information to people in your community at outreach sessions and direct people to where they can get help.

You must be registered with the RBL Office 365 service to be able to register for Branch Community Support, so contact the MSO to get registered for Office 365 – attached to this news letter is more information on Branch Community Support.

Membership Renewals

If you joined as a new member from 1 April 2015 onwards, your membership will be due for renewal each year on the date you joined. If you joined before 1 April 2015, you will renew on 1 October 2016.

From 1 October 2016, the membership fee will be £17. Some branches charge an additional branch subscription fee on top; this will be printed on your renewal notification. There will be no further changes to branch subscriptions for the rest of the financial year 2016-2017.

Card fulfilment

When your payment is cleared, it should take up to 10 working days for you to receive your card. Direct Debit is the easiest way to pay for your membership as this will go through automatically on Monday 3 October. Due to reasons beyond our control, paying cash in branch takes longer to process and as a result, there may be a delay in sending out your membership card. To avoid this, pay by Direct Debit or use Paypoint if you prefer to pay in cash and your payment will be processed more quickly.

Please note that Club fees are no longer processed centrally as part of your membership fee. They will be collected by your Club, as agreed by the Membership Council.

Membership Strategy Briefing

There will be a membership strategy briefing to all members of Hampshire, Dorset and IoW on 24 Sep 16. This is part of a nationwide series of consultations and is the point where every members view will count. Our Membership Council Rep is a member of this Strategy Working Group. Those intending to attend should inform the MSO so that we can get a feel for numbers. The location of the consultation will be notified to members when numbers are in. It will look at the Trustees challenge which in Context is:

- Numbers continue on a long term decline – currently 8% pa
- Demographic remains elderly, white and male.
- Almost 250,000 members (June 16)
- Drivers for change –
Relevance and modernisation
Recruitment and Retention rates
Compliance, capacity and competence

Key Challenges

- Maintain the current membership's significant contribution
- Research & churn suggests new members leave too quickly

Research Findings from a study done recently shows:

- Members consistently say the top three feelings associated with being member are a sense of pride (62%), friendship (53%) and comradeship (47%).
- Comradeship is viewed as the main purpose of membership across all member segments, scoring an aggregated 82%.
- 65% of members' value undertaking profile raising for the charity and 58% value participation in some form of Remembrance activity.

Perception is key because Members view “work, “volunteering” and “helping” differently, consequently whilst 85% of respondents self-declare that they do not do any “voluntary work” for TRBL, when asked to describe their participation by activity 73% participate in TRBL core activity

Proposed Work streams for delivering the Strategy are:

- Governance and Structure
- Value Proposition – The Purpose of Membership
- Leadership
- Recruitment and Retention
- Communication
- Digitisation

Members should think about these aspects and come to the consultation ready and willing to discuss their ideas.

County News

Branch Annual General Meetings

The Membership Support Officer; Chris Bolton; has requested that all Branches contact him with the dates for this year's Branch AGM's, so that a member of the County Committee or our Membership Council Rep may be in attendance. This will allow Branches to ask questions about and give feedback on what is happening within the County and Nationally. The County member will update Branches on any new initiatives and will take back to the County Committee any comments from those Branch AGM's for County to discuss.

Branch News

Milford on Sea

The Milford on Sea Community Centre was the venue for a most successful event run by the Milford on Sea Branch of the Royal British Legion to mark the Queen's 90th birthday. The Mayor and Mayoress of Lymington as well as 75 attendees including members, partners and guests, partook of a glass of sparkling wine offered by the Branch President, Colonel Gordon Barnett, before sitting down to a sumptuous four course dinner prepared by a team of volunteers led by an enthusiastic local chef.



During the meal a rolling montage of the life of the Queen was screened and this was well received by all present as was the letter of thanks received from the Queen in response to loyal salutations sent from the Branch on the Queen's Birthday.

The Branch Chairman, Peter Gibbs, thanked all of those present for their support and in particular the Chef and his team of volunteer helpers who had worked so hard in sourcing and preparing the meal and in its serving. As a token of the Branch's thanks the Chairman presented each member of the volunteer staff with a bottle of wine.



Once the dinner and formalities were complete all present enjoyed an evening of dance and entertainment provided by Ricky Zalez a talented singer.

Thanks to the enthusiastic efforts of volunteers and support given by local traders in the form of discounts, free strawberries and raffle prizes, the sum of £1600 was raised for the work of the Royal British Legion.

The Branch also organised a vigil and service on the Village Green on 1st July to mark the 100th anniversary of the start of the Battle of the Somme. Commencing at 0600 hrs the silent vigil was broken every 15 minutes for poems and writings of the period and at 0730 hrs whistles were sounded after which Canon Ray Hubble, the Branch Chaplain led us in prayers followed by the Exhortation, silence, the Kohima Epitaph and hymns. Some 100 people participated in the event and wreaths were laid by the Branch President and President of the Women's Section on our temporary war Memorial.

Make a note in your diary so you don't miss what promises to be a great concert by Southampton based 'Jubilee Brass' band on 8th October at All Saints Church, Milford on Sea. 7.30pm.

Showcasing a wide repertoire of music, from classical to more modern pieces, the concert will also have a Remembrance element.

Although a little early for the official launch a little later in the month (due to the popularity of All Saints as a concert venue!) half the proceeds will be donated to The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. The other half will be for band funds, to help with expenses incurred for their many performances in support of numerous other charities.

Tickets for the event are £12 or £10 concessions under 16 £5

Available from 'Village News' Newsagents, Milford on Sea from mid September or call Jan England 01590 642291 for more info, or to arrange postal tickets.

Old Basing – Golf

There were 44 entries into Old Basing RBL's fourth Armed Forces Golf day played at Sherfield Oaks course on June 20th 2016. Players from Sherfield Oaks club, Old Basing RBL, Curtis-Wright Systems, Christchurch, Selex-Galileo, Luton and the local community were joined by a mix of other supportive including the President of Hampshire RBL, Brigadier David Harrison JP DL.

The aim was to recognise the occasion of Armed Forces Day and to raise funds for the Poppy Appeal. Players amalgamated into a four-man format with the best two scores on each hole contributing toward the teams total.

A very wet start for the first hour didn't dampen the golfer's enthusiasm and eventually bright and quite warm conditions materialised at the North Hampshire venue meaning that some very good scores were recorded in the end.

The winning team was Too Many Cooks, captained by Darrell Cook, with Jon Wright, Tom Brooks and Colin Lever who amassed 96 points. In second place, scoring 89, were Basing Bygones and a close third with 88 was Dude, Where's My Par.

The individual top spots, the Lowest Gross, was won with a superb 74 shot by Andrew Digby off a 5 h'cap and in second spot was Colin Lever (78) The Highest Stableford score was an amazing 46 accumulated by Colin Lever playing off 19 (not for long!) Second and third spots were filled by Richard Loxton (44) and Jim Brown (43).

Secret Pairs, effectively a draw of all players was won by Richard Loxton and Jim Brown.

Sherfield Club Captain Steve Western used his course knowledge to good effect by securing two of the Individual Nearest the Pin honours at the 5th and 7th holes. Andrew Digby was best at the 2nd, Jason Dimmock at the 12th and Alan Tyler got closest on the 15th.

There were donations from players towards the raffle and the proceeds of these with the individual competition entry fees realized a grand total of £515 profit for the Poppy Appeal which was later topped when a non-show team donated their refund to the kitty meaning that almost £600 was raised. Thanks to everyone for their generosity!

Special thanks to Steve for assistance in totting up scorecards and to Laura Haystaff who manned the Poppy memorabilia table for 2 hrs at the start of the day.

Totton & Eling



Members of the Totton and Eling RBL Branch Committee attended morning Assembly at Oakfield Primary School in Totton to hand over affiliation certificates between the School and the Branch. Branch President Rodney Hawkins gave a

short talk about the significance of the Poppy and the RBL and certificates were exchanged between Branch Chairman Dave Taylor and Mrs Carolyn Wilkinson representing the school.

Oakfield School attends the Armistice Day service in Totton which is organised by the Branch, and the Branch had a stall at the recent school fete. The children already know quite a lot about the work of the RBL and we hope to join with them at other events during the year.



On Saturday 25th June the Marchwood Prelude held a concert in aid of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. The theme of the concert was “The Music of Song and Dance”. A total of £256 was raised from donations and a raffle on the night and Marchwood Prelude kindly donated a further £350 from ticket sales.



A cheque for £350 was presented to Branch Chairman Dave Taylor by the Conductor of Marchwood Prelude John Bell.

Over the past five years the Marchwood Orchestra and Prelude have raised more than £2500 for the Royal British Legion. The Totton and Eling Branch is extremely grateful to everyone who helped raise such a magnificent amount for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Aldershot

A Somme Remembrance Service took place at the Cenotaph in the Municipal Gardens, Aldershot following an all night candlelight vigil by the Aldershot Branch of the Royal British Legion.

The Vigil started at 2000 and was very emotional. The Branch were joined by The Mayor of Rushmoor, local Councillors, RBL members from Lymington and Yateley and also the local Royal Naval Association. All took their turn at the Cenotaph ensuring there was always someone on guard throughout the night, even despite the rain. Poems from the RBL Somme toolkit were read on the hour and half hour throughout the night. The age range of those who stayed up all night was from 50 to 86 years, all of whom



showed great stamina.



A well attended, poignant and moving ceremony was held at 0730 and that really made you think about the sacrifices that were made on the 1st July 1916 and during the 141 days that followed, 100 years ago. Standards were in attendance from Aldershot and Farnborough RBL, Aldershot Parachute Regiment Assn, Aldershot RNA and the local RAFA Branch. The service was attended by the Mayor and led by her Chaplin, Revd Steve Stewart.

One visitor to the morning service wrote on facebook ...

“One moment of the service in particular stands out for me personally. As 07.28 came we all stood for the two minutes silence. I started to imagine those men in the trenches waiting to “go over the top”. I thought of the huge mines being detonated and the terrific sound it must all be making. Then, something that caught me completely by surprise... the sounding of the whistle at the end of the two minutes, 07.30 Zero Hour!!! It immediately filled me with feelings of great apprehension and even fear for a moment. I felt like I was standing not in Municipal Gardens but somewhere else. That was the sound all those brave soldiers heard before they climbed those ladders out of the trenches. Who knows what it must have been like in the trenches!!!!”



The Aldershot RBL were also helped by the 2nd Aldershot Scout Group who supplied tents, a gas urn and gas bottles, battery lighting and some manpower to set up and take down the equipment.

Caroline Mills, PAO for Aldershot said “It was amazing how many visitors we had during the night. They were still coming at 2am and started again at 5am. Many told stories of relatives who had died at the Somme and were pleased to be able to attend such an event to remember them. To hear them talking about their ancestors made all

the planning worthwhile”.

Liphook

Col (Ret'd) Stuart Tootal DSO OBE, who spent twenty years as a soldier, serving in Northern Ireland during the Troubles, the Gulf War and the invasion of Iraq in 2003. In 2006 he commanded 3 PARA as the first UK combat unit to be sent to Helmand province in Afghanistan. Stuart has kindly agreed to talk and reflect about 3 PARA battlegroup's experience in Britain's first intervention into Helmand Province in 2006. His talk will provide a first-hand account of the fighting in Afghanistan. It will be a gritty portrayal of the nature of modern conflict; it will capture the essence of combat, the risks involved and the aftermath. It will be a dramatic, and often moving, insight into the leadership of soldiers and the sharp end of war.

This will be a free event and all are welcome to this talk and the RBL look forward to seeing you on Fri 9 Sep 2016 in Liphook Village Hall – if you'd like to attend please contact Lt Col (Ret'd) Jamie Jack at ann.jack@virgin.net.

Sporting News

Sports Clubs

Poppies4Kits provides sporting clubs across the country with the chance to show their support for the Armed Forces community as well as raising vital funds by wearing a poppy specifically for sports kits. These are easy to use, self-adhesive poppies which enable players to simply remove the poppy after Remembrance.

The initiative by Poppies4Kits was inspired by Premier League teams who have worn poppies to pay their respects during Remembrancetide and support the Legion's Poppy Appeal. As well as raising vital funds for The Royal British Legion, we also found last year that the initiative raised lots of awareness amongst the younger audience on the history and symbolism of the poppy and the Armed Forces community.

Please tell your local clubs to visit the website on www.poppies4kits.co.uk to get a 2016 poppy. The products retail at £1.20 and a minimum of 50p (all profits) is donated to the Legion.

Golf – Annual Pairs

Some of the golfers of Hampshire RBL Golf society got together again for the eighteenth year for the Annual Pairs competition. The Society returned to the north of the county on Monday 16th May for the event and went to the lovely Army Golf Course between Farnborough and Aldershot.

Set in tree-lined parkland, the course was in its usual great condition and we were warmly welcomed by the staff for our day. Our County President David Harrison JP DL who took part is also President of the Army Course so we enjoyed a somewhat privileged welcome there again.

The weather was good for us too which is actually the usual for our small but happy band of players, with entries only coming from Old Basing and Farnborough. Nevertheless, there was a 24-strong entry, making up 6 teams, and an excellent day out ensued for all who came.

Whilst the event was a Stableford pair's 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.

One of last year's winners, Old Basing's Aiden Brophy, was again successful this time partnering Keren Western and they collectively scored an excellent 76 points to win the Bob Knight perpetual trophy. They had an 8 point cushion over another Old Basing duo, Ray Wheeler and Bob Socket with Steve Western and Paul Brett another 4 points behind in third place. Eight handicapper Steve also lifted the Nearest the Pin and the Nearest the Pin-in Two prizes and when Bob Sockett struck a mighty blow on the 18th to win the Longest Drive it meant a clean sweep of the awards for Old Basing.

The golfers enjoyed a meal and drink after the event before the presentation of the prizes. The collective then generously weighed in with raffle prizes for which they bought tickets to potentially win their prizes back and this raised £95 for The Poppy Appeal Classic fund.

Well done to all and thank you so much as always for your generosity.

The next event will be a Team Texas Scramble in October – Watch this space for more details.

Poppy Appeal

The Royal British Legion in conjunction with Sainsbury's, Morrison's and Tesco have agreed to support the Poppy Appeal this year in terms of retaining, counting and banking monies collected in their stores. This is a RBL lead initiative, to reduce the risks to the Poppy Appeal Organisers associated with transporting large amounts of cash across towns and cities. This initiative will also reduce slightly the workload for PAO's and

therefore frees up some of your time at this busy period. The safeguarding of the RBL Volunteers and staff is paramount to the Charity and this way of working supports us in doing this.

Poppy Appeal Organisers should contact their local supermarket prior to the Appeal starting to finalise details for individual stores.

National Total: £43,332,257.42

Hampshire North: £741,157.05

Hampshire South: £820,699.09

Hampshire Total: £1,561,856.14

Events Diary

Date	Title	Location	Contact Details
22 nd Aug	County Committee Meeting*	Area Office Southampton	
4 th Sept	EMMB Memorial Service	Romsey Abbey	Melvyncole54@yahoo.co.uk
9 th Sept	Col (R) Stuart Tootal DSO OBE Talk	Liphook Village Hall	Lt Col (R) Jamie Jack Ann.jack@virgin.net
8 th Oct	Jubilee Brass Band	All Saints Church, Milford on Sea	Jan England – 01590 642291
9 th Oct	County Standard Bearers Comp	Jubilee Hall, Bishops Waltham	stevemo@stevemo.plus.com
15 th Oct	RBL Brass Band Proms	Princess Hall, Aldershot	www.princesshall.com
23 rd Oct	Great South Run	Southsea	CPeppiatt@BritishLegion.org.uk 02380 477274
26 th October	County Committee Meeting*	Old Basing RBL Club	
29 th Oct	Poppy Appeal Launch	Princess Mead, Farnborough	DMoore@Britishlegion.org.uk
11 th Nov	Remembrance Day		
13 th Nov	Remembrance Sunday		
28 th Nov	County Committee Meeting*	Farnborough Civic Offices	
21 st Jan	County Conference	Jubilee Hall, Bishops Waltham	
25 th Jan	County Committee Meeting*	Area Office Southampton	County Committee Appointments
11 th Feb	Regional Standard Bearers Comp	Crossfield Hall, Romsey	Stevemo@stevemo.plus.com

If you have any organised events that you would like to inform the County about please contact the Hampshire Link

*Everyone is invited to attend and witness County Committee meetings and will have an opportunity to comment on agenda items, but will not have any voting rights on matters discussed. (There may be matters when guests are asked to be excused from the room)

Standard Bearers

County Standard Bearers Competition

The County Standard Bearers competition will take place on Sunday 9th Oct 2016 in the Jubilee Hall, Bishops Waltham. Any Standard Bearer who would like to enter the competition should inform their Branch Chairman and the County Parade Marshal, any entrant to the competition must have attended at least ONE training session within the past year. Full program and timings will be released nearer the time, Branch members are more than welcome to come along and support their Standards as are ALL RBL members.

Regional Standard Bearers Competition

The Regional Standard Bearers Competition will be held in Crossfield Hall, Romsey, on Saturday 11th February 2017. As it is being held in Hampshire, I would encourage any Standard Bearers to come along as spectators, as the winner of the County Competition will be taking part.

Standard Bearer Training

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 Standard Bearers from all organisations not just the RBL so please come along and support him.

There now is the facility to conduct Standard Bearer training in Aldershot, and the County Parade Marshal, Steve Forward, would like to hear from any Standard Bearer in the north of the county who would like to attend training there, (stevemo@stevemo.plus.com) or contact the Area office. If the cost of travelling to and from Standard Bearer Training is a problem, as it is classed as a RBL course/activity then expenses can be claimed back from Branches and on a case by case basis, the County can assist with expenses, so please don't let that be a stumbling block to attending courses.

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

Pavilion on the Park

Eastleigh at 1400hrs

Sundays

Aug 14th – Sept 11th

TA Hall, Bath Road

Lymington at 1930hrs

Mondays

Aug 15th – Sept 12th

~ Further dates will soon be notified ~

Contact Us

IT`S YOUR NEWSLETTER!!!

If anyone has any articles they would like to see published in the newsletter then please contact the editor at:

HampshireLink@Outlook.com

Or Send to

Editor – Hampshire Link
15 Champney Close
Whitehill, Bordon
Hampshire
GU35 9DX

By the 26th of the month

Almost anything will be considered for inclusion from Jokes to tips, remarkable personal achievements and Branch events. Even adverts will be accepted.

ALL LEGION ENQUIRIES
(including Welfare Request)
Should be directed to the contact centre

0808 802 8080

Patron – *Lt Gen Sir Mark Mans KCB CBE DL*
President – *Brigadier David Harrison JP DL*
Chairman – *Simon Goldby*
Vice-Chairman – *Rick Bourne*
Membership Support Officer - *Christopher Bolton*
Membership Council Rep – *Paul Harris*
Area Manager – *Jim France*
Community Fundraiser South – *Clare Peppiatt*
Community Fundraiser North – *Dave Moore*

Area Office:

104 Above Bar Street
Southampton
Hampshire
SO14 7DT

RBL Website:

www.BritishLegion.Org.Uk

County Website:

<http://counties.britishlegion.org.uk/counties/hampshire>

Registered Charity Number: 219279.

Secretaries - please ensure that this Newsletter is circulated amongst your members, or if you know a Branch that has not received the Newsletter then get them to contact me. If I am not able to send it electronically, then I will post a copy to the Branch Secretary.

Editors Note – Last month I asked for Branches to confirm that they are receiving the Newsletter, in response only 7 Branches acknowledged..... Please could you, if not done so already, acknowledge receipt of this newsletter – Many thanks.