



# Hampshire Link

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



Edition: September 2016

---

## WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

NIL REPORTED

Our Sincere Condolences to Family and Friends

---

## *National News*

### *Publications*

Attached to this month's Hampshire Link is the current Publication Catalogue, please read each of the descriptions as it contains where the publication is ordered from. For the business cards please contact the MSO as you require an authorisation code prior to placing an order. If you are able to download the publication from the RBL website then it is suggested that you do so, the Guide to Volunteering – membership, is attached for your information.

### *Introduction to Volunteering*

The Royal British Legion was formed by volunteers in 1921 and volunteers, whether members or not, have been a mainstay of the organisation ever since. What started as a membership organisation offering welfare support immediately after WW1 is now one of the largest charities in the country. Comradeship was one of our founding objectives, as the therapeutic value to ex-Service personnel meeting to share their experiences was an important part of their recovery and reintegration into civilian life. That process is as important today as it was then, and that's why the spirit of comradeship continues to underpin all that we do, and is reflected consistently in the way we work with our stakeholders, staff, members, supporters and volunteers to support the Armed Forces community. **National Chairman**

Attached to this newsletter is the Guide to Members about Volunteering within the Royal British Legion which is available for order from the Publications catalogue.

### *Membership Handbook*

There are a number of important documents that can be downloaded from the membership area of the RBL Website, including Financial, Membership and Doctrine. **ALL** members should have the login and password so that they can gain access to the membership documents; there are some very important documents under Membership Renewals that Membership Secretaries should look at as it concerns the 2016 Renewal process.

Login: **memhandbook**

Password: **TRBLmem£86**

# *County News*

## *County Vice Chairman*

Mr Rick Bourne was voted into the role of Vice Chairman by the County Committee on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2016, to stand until the next County AGM which is to be held on 21<sup>st</sup> Jan 2016 at Bishops Waltham.

For this reason nomination forms for the position of County Vice Chairmen have been sent to branches. The term of office will be 3 years. More details can be found in the County Handbook in section Counties 2.1.1.1, or be requested from the MSO, but nominations must be returned by **5pm Monday 31<sup>st</sup> Oct 2016**. Branches should have received the full pack for nominating members from the MSO by now, please ensure all Branch members are made aware and put names forward.

## *Welfare*

The main objection of our organisation – see the Royal Charter – is to assist those serving and es-service (and dependants) who are in need. The Area Welfare Team visit and determine the need and this is then processed through Head Office to ensure that the recipient has the required assistance.

Branches can support this by contributing to the County Welfare Fund, which puts cash into those cases in Hampshire – through the central welfare system.

You have spare money – so use it – we are not required, as a charity, to amass funds, we are required to distribute them to our beneficiaries and then raise more.

Your help is always needed, so ensure that your Branch is a regular contributor to the County Welfare Fund, cheques to the Area Office payable to Royal British Legion. - **Brian CN Soffe – County Treasurer**

## *County Conference 2017*

The Hampshire County Conference will be held on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2017 at the Jubilee Hall, Bishops Waltham from 1030hrs; Branch Secretaries will receive a Conference Pack by 1<sup>st</sup> September.

There are a number of positions on the County Committee that need to be filled; so please ask members to seriously think about supporting a very deserving and rewarding position.

FOUR vacancies – to serve for 3 years until January 2020

FOUR vacancies – to serve for 2 years until January 2019

ONE vacancy – to serve for 1 year until January 2018

The Nomination form along with the CV is to be completed (use CV format supplied); all Conference Forms must be returned to the Area Office by 18<sup>th</sup> November 2016, **any nominations received after this date will be INVALID**

REMEMBER – Delegates will only be allowed to vote if the Branch has submitted the annual accounts and MS1's prior to Conference, last year ONE delegate was denied their vote, because the MS1 had not been submitted on time.

## Branch News

### Brockenhurst – Poppy Pod Village



Brockenhurst experienced a memorable day at the end of July when the Duchess of Cornwall flew in to open the Poppy Pod Village at Hampshire County Council's Tile Barn Outdoor Centre.

Gareth Malone's Military Wives' Choir was the original inspiration for this idea. Enda Ryan – the Tile Barn Centre manager at the time (and an RBL member) – wanted to create a tangible Hampshire County Council legacy in perpetuity as a 'thank you' to recognise and remember the sacrifices made and faced by the Armed Services Community. Over the last five years this dream mutated into the construction of the

handsome new ring of 20 camping pods with a central communal hub opened by the Duchess with the unveiling of a plaque.

Funding for the project came from a £250,000 grant from the Armed Forces Covenant Scheme and a £50,000 donation from the Chalk and Humphries bequests held for the Brockenhurst Branch by HQ Finance. Persuading them to let us use some of our Branch capital to this end proved an adventure in itself. They were initially reluctant to let us make a donation to a Statutory Authority but finally agreed that this was a win-win situation since it would result in the opening of what in effect is a 5<sup>th</sup> Respite Break Centre – but at no expense to the Legion! The project driver of providing free rehabilitative breaks for service personnel and their families (including those with disabilities) resonates historically and emotionally on this site of a major 1st World War Hospital dedicated to care and cure and this too registered with them as it did with us as a Branch.



The Duchess made a private visit to St Nicholas Church and the Commonwealth War Graves before her official engagement at the Tile Barn Centre. She was greeted on arrival by the Lord Lieutenant, Nigel Atkinson, and the New Zealand High Commissioner, Sir Lockwood Smith. The latter showed her the new Memorial Window and she was given a short brief on the history of the Hospital before being escorted down to the War Graves where she laid a posy in front of the memorial.



When she reached the Tile Barn Centre it was a hive of activity. Children from the village showed off their skills on the high ropes. Members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Brabourne & Smeeth Scout troop had built a tennis ball firing catapult. A combined Salisbury and Marchwood Military Wives' Choir sang quite beautifully. A number of small groups, including one consisting of a few of our own Branch members, were presented to the Duchess. She also circulated round the pods chatting to many of the service families who were enjoying their first free respite breaks in them. Customer feedback was overwhelmingly favourable. Enda's dream had become

a reality.

Mike Matthews

## *Bordon*

The Bordon & District Branch attended the Bordon Community Centre Activity day to raise awareness of the Royal British Legion in the community; we were also trying to get new volunteers to help out with the Poppy Appeal in November. The weather was perfect and at least 150 people attended the fun day and plenty visited the Branch Gazebo for information. At least 7 new volunteers came forward to help the PAO out at Tesco, whilst we managed to get a few people interested in joining the RBL, which will help improve the Branch membership.

## *Romsey*

There will be a Remembrance Concert in Romsey on the 11th of November. The event will be at the United Reform Church start time 19:30. Tickets are available from the Tourist Information Centre Romsey or on the door (entrance price yet to be confirmed). This will be the 10th year that this concert has been held. The Michelmersh Silver band will be performing, with a theme of "The Somme 100".

# *Poppy Appeal*

## *Mrs Barbara Watkinson*



Mrs Barbara Watkinson, who died at the end of July, 2016, was a distinguished member of the Women's Section, RBL and, with her husband Ken, was for many years Poppy Appeal Organizer for Waterlooville.

When Barbara asked me in 2004 to take over from her and Ken, I had been helping out with their Poppy Box deliveries for a couple of years. I had known them for about sixteen years before that, when they had supplied T.S. *Avenger* for their annual door-to-door collection for the Poppy Appeal in Purbrook, and when they came to present *Avenger* with the Waterlooville Shield (later replaced by the Watkinson Shield) for the Youth Group which had collected annually the most in the area.

For the next several years I was able to lean upon Barbara (Ken having died) for support during the Poppy Appeal. Without her practical help and suggestions to rationalize our work, it would have been much harder for me. She bequeathed a great team of helpers to me, and when the Waterlooville Branch of RBL had to give up its hall Barbara let us use her bungalow the next year for the distribution and collection of tins and boxes. It was only in the last two years that Barbara had to give up her stint of poppy collecting, and even then she kept a box at home for family and friends – contributing to the record totals of 2014 -15 in Waterlooville right to the very end.

I never established the exact dates of her service to Legion and Appeal. She went out with her mother to sell poppies the first November after her father's death at sea in the War, and then regularly from the age of 16. Barbara described when they first took on the work of PAO, she, Ken and helpers had to assemble the poppies which were then only supplied loose from Aylesford. Naturally Barbara held the 30 years' Long Service Brooch with all the Bars to 65. She was involved in the creation of the Lovedean and Horndean RBL Women's Section in 1994, held various offices in the Waterlooville Section until it closed two years ago, and was a Group Leader in the Hampshire County Women's Section. She was also Standard Bearer for a time for the Petersfield Women's Section. For her services to the RBL Women's Section Barbara was awarded the Gold Badge.

In conclusion, I pay tribute to a devoted member of the RBL, who gave enormous time and effort to the Poppy Appeal for most of her long life.

Richard Hill Brown,  
PAO, Waterlooville

## *Events Diary*

Date	Title	Location	Contact Details
4 <sup>th</sup> Sept	EMMB Memorial Service	Romsey Abbey	<a href="mailto:Melvyncole54@yahoo.co.uk">Melvyncole54@yahoo.co.uk</a>
9 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Col (R) Stuart Tootal DSO OBE Talk	Liphook Village Hall	Lt Col (R) Jamie Jack Ann.jack@virgin.net
17 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Dance Mix Workout	RBL Hall Farnborough	Lesley – 07936 293967 - 01252 615955
8 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Jubilee Brass Band	All Saints Church, Milford on Sea	Jan England – 01590 642291
9 <sup>th</sup> Oct	County Standard Bearers Comp	Jubilee Hall, Bishops Waltham	<a href="mailto:stevemo@stevemo.plus.com">stevemo@stevemo.plus.com</a>
15 <sup>th</sup> Oct	RBL Brass Band Proms	Princess Hall, Aldershot	<a href="http://www.princesshall.com">www.princesshall.com</a>
23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	Great South Run	Southsea	<a href="mailto:CPeppiatt@BritishLegion.org.uk">CPeppiatt@BritishLegion.org.uk</a> 02380 477274
26 <sup>th</sup> October	County Committee Meeting*	Old Basing RBL Club	
29 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Poppy Appeal Launch	Princess Mead, Farnborough	<a href="mailto:DMoore@Britishlegion.org.uk">DMoore@Britishlegion.org.uk</a>
11 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Remembrance Concert	Romsey, United Reform Church	Tourist Information Centre On the Door
11 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Remembrance Day		
13 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Remembrance Sunday		
28 <sup>th</sup> Nov	County Committee Meeting*	Farnborough Civic Offices	
21 <sup>st</sup> Jan	County Conference	Jubilee Hall, Bishops Waltham	
25 <sup>th</sup> Jan	County Committee Meeting*	Area Office Southampton	County Committee Appointments
11 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Regional Standard Bearers Comp	Crossfield Hall, Romsey	<a href="mailto:Stevemo@stevemo.plus.com">Stevemo@stevemo.plus.com</a>

**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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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**  
Sept 11<sup>th</sup>

**TA Hall, Bath Road**  
Lymington at 1930hrs  
**Mondays**  
Sept 12<sup>th</sup>

*Details of further training sessions will be published after the Regional Standard Bearers Competition*

## *Attachments to Hampshire Link*

[2016\\_Prom Poster](#)

[County Vice Chairman Nomination form](#)

[Dance Mix Workout](#)

[Introduction to Volunteering](#)

[Notice of Conference 2017](#)

[Publications Catalogue](#)

## *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](mailto:HampshireLink@Outlook.com)

Or Send to

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

By the 26<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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.**