



Hampshire Link

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



Edition: November 2016

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Mr A Osbourne - Copythorne

Mr T Friel – Fawley & District

Mr M Smith - Lymington

Mr D Ellis – Petersfield

Mr K Trodd – Winchester & District

Our Sincere Condolences to Family and Friends

National News

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees met at the beginning of October to discuss our proposed strategy and aims for the Legion for the next five years and our planned budget for next year.

Inspired by those we support, our aim is to offer the breadth, depth and quality of service they deserve. We cannot do this on our own. There is huge public support for our Armed Forces. In response, our purpose is to be at the heart of a national network that supports our Armed Forces through thick and thin – ensuring their unique contribution is never forgotten. Our strategy follows simply from this. Central to our strategy is collaboration between members, volunteers, staff and our many partners.

Today I am delighted to let you know that the Board gave its full support to this strategy and to the budget for next year. After the remembrance period is complete we will share more detail on the strategy so that we can all gain a shared understanding of our purpose and plans and begin to understand what the strategy will mean for us as members, volunteers and staff.

On behalf of Charles Bryne – Director General

Branch Community Support

The Branch Community Support (BCS) is now up and running for those Branches that have signed up and have access to the Membership Administrative Portal (Office 365). Branch Welfare Representatives will receive the passwords for the BCS very soon, if not received already, Chairmen & Secretaries have access already, if they are signed up to MAP.

By registering to participate it is hoped that you will use the BCS area as and when required, entering both beneficiary and supporter details and ensuring your activity reports are submitted in accordance with the dates provided in the guidance. By providing access to a number of Branch Officials it is hoped that BCS activity and data recording will remain consistent, and in the absence of key access users.

It should be emphasised that reports will contain personal information which must be treated, used and shared in compliance with the Data Protection Act. A copy of the Legion's Data Protection Policy is available from the BCS guidance library.

A copy of the BCS system user guide is attached for your guidance. As mentioned all other procedural documentation, including resources to aid the Branch are located within the relevant BCS folders. Before commencing any BCS activity/recording you are kindly requested to ensure you are fully conversant with all documentation located within these folders.

Should you have any questions in relation to BCS then please do contact your MSO in the first instance.

On behalf of the Legion, please allow me to thank for you for your continued support, and more importantly the integral part your branch will play in delivering BCS activities to assist our beneficiaries within your local community.

Kind Regards

Branch Community Support (Project Team)

Women`s Section Update

Following positive and constructive discussions, the joint Working Group of representatives of the Women's Section and of the Board of Trustees of The Royal British Legion submitted a plan for the modernisation of The Women's Section to the Board of Trustees on Thursday 20th October.

We are delighted to announce that this plan, having been agreed by the Central Committee of the Women's Section, has been approved by the Board.

We look forward to working together, through the existing Working Group, to develop the necessary procedures and bye-laws that will enable the transition to take place on or before 01st October 2017.

We are happy that, having listened to concerns from all aspects of membership, both in the main part of The Royal British Legion and in the Women's Section, the Legion has achieved an amicable solution that will enable both parties to move forwards as one whilst retaining the unique identity of the Women's Section.

The key areas approved are set out below and will guide the modernisation of the Women's Section, and its inclusion in the governance structures of The Royal British Legion, commencing on or before 01st October 2017.

- The Royal British Legion Women's Section membership will abide by the governance arrangements of The Royal British Legion, and shall be accountable to the Membership Council, to which it shall be entitled to appoint one member.
- The Section will be called The Royal British Legion Women's Section.
- The Royal British Legion Women's Section will retain its National Status.
- The Royal British Legion Women's Section will retain its National Standard.
- The ceremonial dress of the Women's Section will also be retained.
- The Chairman of The Royal British Legion Women's Section will remain on the Board of Trustees.
- The Chairman of The Royal British Legion Women's Section will continue to lay a wreath at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday until November 2018, after which one wreath will be laid by The Royal British Legion National President on behalf of the whole organisation.
- The accounting and funding practices of The Royal British Legion Women's Section shall follow Royal British Legion practice.

- The membership fees will be aligned to those of The Royal British Legion by 01st October 2019.
- The Royal British Legion Women's Section Central Committee will continue to operate sub-committees for welfare, conference and finance and the Section's schemes will be administered by the Royal British Legion Central Grants team.
- The Royal British Legion Women's Section Branches will be eligible to attend and participate in Annual Conference, and from 2018 onwards a member of the Women's Section will be able to stand for election to the National Conference Committee.
- The next Annual Conference of the Women's Section will take place in April 2017 as usual. Subsequent Annual Meetings of the Women's Section will be of a duration of no more than one day, and will be held in the time period between November and February to enable any motions or nominations to be submitted at least 13 weeks before The Royal British Legion Annual Conference.

We would like to thank all those who have made positive contributions to the discussions surrounding the modernisation of The Women's Section. We thank you for your patience while these have been ongoing, and we look forward to the successful implementation of the plan.

With kind regards: Terry Whittles – National Chairman
 Marilyn Humphry - National Chairman Women's Section

Branch News

Petersfield

On 14th October 2016, the Petersfield Branch said its final farewell to Mr Doug Ellis a long standing member of the Branch.

Doug – His part in Hitler's downfall (amended version)



“Doug was a member of the Hampshire Brigade – part of the 46th Division that left Bizerta, North Africa for Sicily and subsequently mainland Italy in their invasion craft. En route they were informed that the Italian Army has surrendered which invoked a loud cheer. The Salerno landings took place on September 9th 1943 – hampered by the fact that they landed on the wrong beaches! Doug's Bren Gun Carrier broke down, but he was able to repair it and rejoined his Battalion after 3 days. From September 14th there was heavy fighting on White Cross Hill for a few days, then St Lucia and onto Naples. Returning to Egypt the Battalion re-equipped and made their way to Palestine, Lebanon and Syria in a training role. The Battalion then returned to Italy in time to see the Americans “Liberate” Rome – the city having been secured before the arrival of General Mark Clark.

The Battalion advanced to Northern Italy, but was then diverted to Greece to quell a Communist uprising, returning to Brindisi in time for the end of War in Europe. After a short rest the Battalion were called to Yugoslavia to prevent the Yugoslavs from annexing part of Austria. Unfortunately, during the Italian campaign the Battalion sustained heavy losses. It should be noted that the Royal Navy provided strong support throughout the campaign, one of the low points was a mutiny by 191 men, the result of being assigned to unfamiliar units and something else that rankled was the title – “D-Day Dodgers” – an undeserved title, Doug was to eventually return home November 1946.”

Totton & Eling



Photo shows Ken Comley receiving the Totton and Eling Branch standard from Chairman and former Standard Bearer Dave Taylor

Remembrance weekend will be very busy for the Totton and Eling Branch, and especially for their Standard Bearer Ken Comley. Ken took over from our previous Standard Bearer and current Branch Chairman Dave Taylor in 2015. On Friday 11th November he will be at the Armistice Day Service at the Totton Memorial from 10.30am to 11.30am. Shortly afterwards Ken will travel up to

London for rehearsals at the Royal Albert Hall where he will be representing the Totton and Eling Branch at the Festival of Remembrance. After two performances at the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday 12th November, Ken will return to Totton for the Remembrance Day Parade. All parade participants will gather in Beaumont Road, Totton at 9.45am on Sunday 13th November for the march to the Memorial.

After a quick break Ken will represent the Branch that evening at the Festival of Remembrance in Colbury Memorial Hall which starts at 7.30pm. By taking part Ken ensures that the Totton and Eling Branch Poppy Appeal will receive a share of the donations taken on the night.

Everyone at the Totton and Eling Branch is very grateful to Dave Taylor, our former Standard Bearer and to Ken Comley for their service to the Branch.

Hayling Island

Hayling Island Branch have new website, Facebook and Twitter feeds, which are listed below

Website: <http://branches.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/hayling-island>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RBLHaylingIslandBranch>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/RBLBranchHI>

The Branch currently has vacancies for a Secretary and Membership Secretary, if anyone is interested in applying for either of these posts, they should contact the Vice-Chairman Adrian Trew vicechairman.rblhayling@gmail.com or Mobile: 07581 201161

Hayling is having a Dinner at the Regency Room, RBL Club to commemorate the end of the Battle of the Somme 100 years ago and a number of relatives of those that made the ultimate sacrifice have been invited to tend. The evening will consist of a two course meal (vegetarian available) along with live music by 1st World War & Music Hall singers Lynda Styan & Fiona Harrison and there will be a raffle with prizes donated by local businesses. The cost of the evening is £15.00 and tickets can be purchased from the Hayling Island RBL Club bar or www.haylingsommecommemoration.eventbrite.co.uk

Poppy Appeal

2015-2016 Annual Totals

National: £44,527,602

Hampshire North: £754,757

Hampshire South: £832,816

Hampshire Poppy Launch

Rethink Remembrance

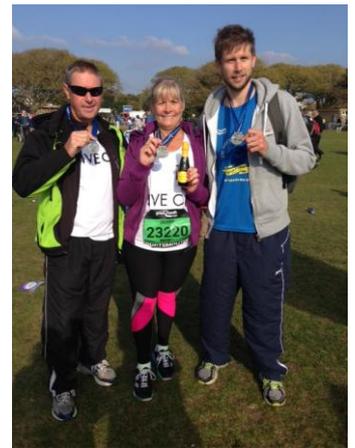
The Poppy Appeal 2016 launched 29th October in Hampshire as The Royal British Legion encourages people to ‘rethink Remembrance’ during this year’s campaign. The poppy and the work of the Legion are often associated with the First and Second World Wars and elderly veterans; however the charity is calling on the public to consider all generations of the Armed Forces community when they wear their poppy.

The full press release is attached to the Newsletter

Great South Run



25 people ran to raise money for the Poppy Appeal on the 23rd October in the Great South Run, held at Southsea, Portsmouth. This was very well supported by the branches with Lee on Solent Chairman Mick Watts, wife and Branch committee member Debbie Watts and their son Jamie. Mick Mills Aldershot Secretary and his son Adam and daughter Sarah including another four people Mick recruited. The Gosport and Alverstoke representatives were Branch Chairman Andy Brown who after losing 6 stone ran his first race and Treasurer David Atkinson whose company he works for (Marken plc) sponsored him \$1000 (£764).



Events Diary

Date	Title	Location	Contact Details
11 th Nov	Remembrance Concert	Romsey, United Reform Church	Tourist Information Centre On the Door
11 th Nov	Remembrance Day		
13 th Nov	Remembrance Sunday		
18 th Nov	Battle of the Somme Commemorative Dinner	Hayling Island	RBL Club – Hayling Island Haylingsommecommemoration.eventbrite.co.uk
19 th Nov	We Will Remember Them	HMS Collingwood	Tel: 01329 332553 – 01489 612477 Email: navyoptrg-cwdcharityconcert@mod.co.uk
28 th Nov	County Committee Meeting	Farnborough Civic Offices	
10 th Dec	Poppy Appeal Christmas Concert	Farnborough RBL Club	Farnborough RBL Club Jackie: 07767 025074
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

Standard Bearers

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.

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.

Membership documents can be found at the following website:

<http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/membership/already-a-member/membership-documents/>

Login: **memhandbook**

Password: **TRBLmem£86**

All RBL members should be given this website and password

Attachments to Hampshire Link

Farnborough Christmas Concert
Somme Commemorative Dinner

O365 – BCS User Guide
We Will Remember Them Poster

Poppy Launch – Press Release