



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



Edition: 1st April 2017

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Mr R. Gibson – Life Member
Mr J Dunford – Lymington
Mrs S Crittall – Park Gate
Mr L. Bailey – Old Basing
Mr D. Samuelson - Petersfield

Our Sincere Condolences to Family and Friends

National News

The “Gateway” Strategy & Membership

The Director General of the RBL has written to all Branches giving an update about his plans for the RBL, and the most important thing is why we are here, that is why we exist as an organisation.

We are here because the Legion is at the heart of a national network that supports our Armed Forces community through thick and thin – ensuring that their unique contribution is never forgotten. Our five year “Gateway” Strategy follows very simply from that purpose and those aims. The first step in that strategy is the creation of Veteran’s Gateway. The Legion is the leading partner in that consortium which, through collaboration with other charities and partners, will provide a first port of call for all veterans to find the support they need, from whoever is best placed to provide it.

To support our strategy we have four priorities:

1. **Those we support** – delivering the support they need through the Gateway Strategy
2. Taking 2018 and the centenary commemorations as an extraordinary opportunity to engage our nation in **Remembrance** and to reaffirm its enduring importance
3. Working with and supporting our **Membership**
4. Developing our **operational excellence**, that is building an efficient and effective organisation that gives great service both to those we support and the organisation itself

Remembrance Insurance

There has been in recent months, inquiries made to the Member Council requests for confirmation on local Remembrance events, and in particular to insurance to cover these events. Robert Lee, Assistant Director of Remembrance & National Events has released a letter to explain who is responsible for providing the Insurance for these events.

“The subject of local authority and police support of Remembrance services went before the EB this week and an article on the issue will be forthcoming in Legion magazine. To answer your question: we advise strongly that Branches do not accept responsibility as event organisers, and Poppy Appeal funds cannot be used to support parades (as it says in the Membership Handbook). Event Organiser status confers costs and

liabilities, which we are unwilling to undertake. As for our Public Liability insurance; it only covers liabilities as a result of our actions. Local Authority insurance which covers general liabilities cannot be withdrawn by the authority.

There is no statutory requirement for local authorities to assume responsibility for Remembrance services, but it is longstanding convention and we resist vigorously any attempt to confer this responsibility to the Legion Branch. Remembrance is a community occasion to honour veterans and the fallen, not a veterans' event staged for the community. While we are happy to support Remembrance services, we are not the owner, and repeated letters from the Home Secretary to local authorities has confirmed this.

If a Branch is experiencing difficulties in this regard, please refer them to me via MSO`s, as the EB has authorised a national audit of the situation ”

LIBOR Fines Funded Normandy Tours

Arena Travel - www.arenatravel.com/our-holidays/remembrance-travel/libor-fines-funded-normandy-tours

These very special Journeys of Remembrance will take you to the heart of Normandy's rich and eventful WWII history and the beaches immortalised by the D-Day landings. The tours will take the form of a Journey of Remembrance and funding will be available for a Normandy veteran, and two carers/ family members (3 travellers max in total).

In addition, an overnight stay pre and post tour in either London or Ashford is included (not included for Bristol departure) and each participant will be given a travel allowance of up to £50.00 per person towards the cost of travel to their departure point. Please note that participants can decline overnight pre and post tour accommodation should they wish when completing the eligibility form.

To register your interest and for more information please call 01473 660800. You can also download from the website which you can complete and return to us at the stated address.

Operation Overlord is often referred to as the greatest air and seaborne invasion ever seen. The courage, determination and sacrifice of the men who landed in Normandy will never be forgotten. The Royal British Legion is the National Custodian of Remembrance and, in partnership with Arena Travel, has designed these Journeys especially for Normandy veterans and members of their families.

You will visit the beaches invaded during Operation Overlord in the company of an experienced Royal British Legion guide and have the opportunity to pay your respects to the fallen at many of the CWGC cemeteries in the area including Ranville and Bayeux.

The journeys will depart by coach from central London and cross the channel by Eurotunnel, continuing to Normandy by coach. You will enjoy 4 nights' hotel accommodation inclusive of breakfast each day. During your stay in Normandy you will also have time to visit key sites such as Ranville, Pegasus Bridge, Café Gondree, Point Du Hoc, Sword, Juno, Gold and Omaha beaches and pay your respects.

We understand the special needs of our veterans and so in addition to the RBL guide, you will be accompanied by a medic who will ensure that everyone is cared for.

We are sure that these special LIBOR fines funded Journeys will prove to be very popular and so early booking is essential.

RBL Position – NI Troubles Investigations

All Chairmen should have received a letter from Mr Terry Whittles, the National Chairman, clarifying the RBL position regarding the planned marches about the NI Troubles and the investigation of veterans.

The RBL will not offer legal representation as that would be inconsistent with our charitable objectives, but will provide a wide range of welfare support and services to the members of the Armed Forces community.

If your Chairman has not received this letter yet, then they should contact the MSO at the Area Office in the first instance.

County News

Information Request

If you have or know of a story that can be used to engage with our media either as an RBL member or someone who has received help, please let us know. Would be great if we can find any stories that are linked to this year's commemorations which include the Falklands anniversary or Battle of Passchendaele. Please contact Tristan Nichols, Public Relations Officer (South) tnichols@britishlegion.org.uk

Branch News

Eastleigh, Chandlers Ford & District



On Sunday 19th Feb 2017, RAF Ibsley Historical group, held there Memorial Service to the men of RAF Ibsley Fighter Airfield. In attendance under the command of Parade Marshal Steve Forward were the RBL Standards of Ringwood (Phil Doughty), Lyndhurst (Mike Cavaney) and Eastleigh, Chandlers Ford (Leslie Bailey) and an RAF Association Standard. The service was conducted by the Rev. Terry Roberts.

R.A.F. Ibsley (1941-1952) Situated on the western edge of the New Forrest, between Ringwood and Fordingbridge in Hampshire, Ibsley airfield during WW2, after which it become accommodation base for personnel from another RAF station, Sopley, flying activities ceased in 1946 and the station finally closed in 1952. it was the home to many RAF & USAAF squadrons.



New Milton Branch

23rd February was a busy day for us! On a bright but cold and very blustery morning a **Dedication Service** was held at the town's War Memorial to honour Lt. Colonel George Wheeler of the 2nd/9th Gurkha Rifles who was awarded the Victoria Cross on that day one hundred years ago. Local residents, Branch members, the Reverend Andrew Bailey, town dignitaries and specially invited representatives from the Gurkha Rifles gathered for a brief, simple but rather special service. Wreaths were laid at his recently installed plaque and a high point of the morning was surely the impressive performances of the Gurkha trumpeter and piper.

Although born in Yokohama, where his father had a private medical practice, George Wheeler was educated in England before "passing out" at Sandhurst and joining the East Yorkshire Regiment. Stationed in India he was posted to the Gurkha Rifles and remained with them for the rest of his military career. After the war he returned to England, settled here in Beach Avenue, Barton-on-Sea and, on his death in 1938, was buried in the churchyard of St. Mary Magdalene. Regrettably, over the years his grave was allowed to fall into disrepair and the cost of a new headstone was borne by the Gurkha Association. However, its maintenance has now been taken over by this branch of the Legion.

Later that same evening a Branch Meeting/Social took place when we were entertained by committee member Martin Axton who gave a presentation on the life (and loves) of Robert Burns. Acknowledged world-wide as a distinguished and prolific poet, he apparently had a penchant for the ladies and managed to father twelve children before dying at the terribly young age of 37.

Bramley & District

The Bramley & District Standard Bearer, Tony Evans, has been a member of the RBL for over 59 years. An ex Royal Marines Warrant Officer, Tony can be seen at RBL events both locally and at County level, carrying the Branch Standard. He is never put off by the weather, and will attend events that are required. He can be relied on to be immaculately dressed and is a credit to both the Branch and the National RBL. We hope that he will continue to represent the Branch for many years to come, as the Branch Members owe him a debt of gratitude.



Totton & Eling

Totton & Eling will be celebrating St Georges day at the community centre to raise funds for the RBL Poppy Appeal on 22nd April. On the 24th April at the Totton Conservative club there will be an inter-branch Quiz night – More details on both events from the Branch secretary Susan Compton – 023 8087 3143 or legion@compark.co.uk.

On Monday 6th March 2017 a ceremony was held at Totton College during which the students of the Uniformed Public Services course presented a cheque for £1,202.80 to the Royal British Legion.



The donation was the result of the students cycling some 40 plus miles each around the New Forest, and then, over the following night, completing a total of over 1,000 miles collectively by pedalling on static bicycles. The event was mainly organised by the students themselves under the supervision of their tutors.

Accepting this most generous donation, Rodney Hawkins, the Branch President (who was supported by Ian Middleton, the Branch Vice-Chairman, and Monica Fitzpatrick, a Committee Member), stated that it was a 'noble effort' on the part of the students and he concluded by thanking them and wishing them well for their future careers.



Lovedean & Horndean

In January this year, Mr John Andrews, was invited to the Branch meeting to present to the Branch Chairman, Mrs Lorraine Jarvis, a “gavel” that was purchased and inscribed in memory of his late father John Nelson Andrews (15/3/1915-04/04/2016). The late John Andrews was the oldest and proudest member of the Branch, John was born in Norfolk, and travelled around the country and always transferred his RBL membership to the nearest Branch to show his support and offer any help he could give. He settled in Hampshire in 1987, and on his passing, his family requested donations to be made to Lovedean & Horndean. The Branch Officers, knowing how John supported the ex-forces community made a £200 donation to the County Welfare Fund, and purchased a gavel for the Branch for a permanent reminder for the Branch.



The gavel has been inscribed with:

“Royal British Legion BR1915 – In Memoriam John Nelson Andrews 15/03/15-04/04/16”

Poppy Appeal

Mayor of Winchester Awards 2017

On Wednesday 29th March the Mayor of Winchester hosted the Mayor of Winchester Community Awards 2017. During a fun filled evening which included a musical extravaganza by the Winchester Council Choir ably led by the Mayor of Winchester Cllr Jane Rutter. A variety of awards were presented to a vast array of volunteers from the Winchester District in recognition of their dedication to their chosen charity. During the evening four British Legion Members were presented awards in recognition to there dedication to the Poppy Appeal.



Mrs Cicely Bull from Hursley was recognised for her dedication to the RBL collecting for the Poppy Appeal for over 55 years as well as being the Poppy Appeal Organiser for Hursley for the last 10 years. Cicely was nominated by Dave Moore CFR North Hampshire.

Mrs Ruth Harrison from Weeke was recognised for her vast variety of volunteer work within the RBL ranging from a case worker to a branch and group secretary. Ruth served for many years on the county committee and has collected for the Poppy Appeal for over 60 years. Nominated by Dave Moore CFR North



Mr Derek Green Chairman of Winchester and District Branch was recognised for his commitment to the RBL and his work as PAO for Winchester. Nominated by Stan Judd Vice-Chairman Winchester and District.

Mr Terry Young was recognised for carrying out street collections for the Poppy Appeal in Winchester over many years. Terry was nominated by Derek Green, Chairman of Winchester and District Branch.



Cobbetts Boules Club

Cobbetts Boules Club in Botley handed over a cheque of £600 to The Royal British Legion to help support the Armed Forces, veterans and their families.

A petanque 'Poppy Doubles' competition which was held last November invited people to donate and help with much needed funds to enable The Royal British Legion to carry out the work they provide throughout the year. Clare Peppiatt the Interim Community fundraising manager for the South said "It is great when

different organisations get involved with helping us raise vital funds but also raising awareness with new audiences. Alison Stubbs the Secretary of Cobbetts Boules Club organised the event and did a magnificent job we are very grateful to her".



Pictured are Henry Cirino, RBL Advice & Information Officer, Clare Peppiatt, CFR (S), Lizzy White, RBL Team Leader, Mrs Alison Stubbs, Secretary of Cobbetts Boules Club and Patrick Parsons, Vice-Chairman of Netley RBL.

Events Diary

Date	Title	Location	Contact
8 th April	Cream Tea & Cake Sale	Jack Morris Hall, Old Basing	RG24 7DN
22 nd April	St Georges Day	Totton & Eling Community Centre	Susan Compton – 023 8087 3143 legion@compark.co.uk
24 th April	Quiz Night	Totton Conservative Club	Susan Compton – 023 8087 3143 legion@compark.co.uk
29 th April	Welfare Fundraiser	Farnborough Club	June Smith – 01252 654215 Ben Weston – 01252 543306
8 th May	Golf Pairs	Army Golf Club, Aldershot	Rick Bourne
29 th May	Donkey Derby	Farnborough	Farnborough RBL
11 th June	Fete	North Camp Village	Farnborough RBL

If you have any organised events that you would like to inform the County about please contact the Hampshire Link with the details, along with a costs, location and a contact.

Sport News

Golf

The Hampshire RBL County Pairs tournament returns to The Army Club, Aldershot on **MONDAY 8th MAY** for the 2017 event so come on Branches, please join in!

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.

Application form is at the end of the newsletter and should be returned to Rick Bourne, County Golf Secretary by no later than 14th April 2017

Standard Bearers

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.

**Pavilion on the Park
1 Kingsfisher Road
GSO50 9LH
Sundays**

9 Apr, 14 May, 11 Jun
9 Jul, 13 Aug, 10 Sep, 8 Oct

**Drill Hall
Lymington
SO41 3RU
Mondays**

10 Apr, 15 May, 12 Jun
10 Jul, 14 Aug, 11 Sep, 9 Oct

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.

Newsletter

Many thanks to all the Branches that have submitted articles for inclusion to this month's Newsletter, many thanks for all your articles, I will endeavour to ensure that they are published in full. If you wish pictures to be included in the write up, can you please send them as JPEG file attached, and not as part of a PDF file as I am having trouble separating the pictures from the document. Please ensure that you have the Copyright ownership for any pictures you send in.

The Link seems to be receiving articles from the same Branches, whilst they are very much appreciated and always welcome (please don't stop sending) it would be nice if other Branches could also contribute to the Newsletter, because it is **YOUR** newsletter, articles about what your Branch is doing at the moment, any special events that you are taking part in, a member that has reached a milestone age or a member of the Branch or Community that you feel needs a special mention, they are all welcome.

If you have to send articles by post, please ensure that the full postage is paid, as I cannot accept the charges for underpaid postage.

If you have any recommendations about what should or should not be in the newsletter then please contact me, details are on the next page, or can be sent to the MSO at the Area Office.

It is hoped to produce an article next month giving the County Committee break down, so you are all aware of who the County Team are, and what each member is responsible for.

Annual Returns

There are several Branches that have not yet returned their annual returns, either the Accounts or MS1's, these returns are required by the terms of the RBL Royal Charter, and Charity Commission rules, and Branches may be closed at the discretion of the Membership Council if the continually fail to submit the annual reports.

Obituaries

Petersfield – Dick Samuelson



It is with sad news that Petersfield Branch announce the passing of Dick “Sammy” Samuelson on Feb 9th 2017. *He was former owner of the "Kitchen Shop" in Swan Street and a member of Petersfield RBL although he had moved to Steyning a few years ago. Dick had been an Observer on Fairey Fireflies aboard HMS Indefatigable with the British Pacific Fleet in 1945.*



Old Basing – Len Bailey

Old Basing Royal British Legion is very sad to hear of the passing of Len Bailey, one of the few remaining ex-servicemen still a member of our Branch and Club. Len who was 83 years of age and had served in the Royal Army Service Corp, passed away suddenly at home on March 7th.

We have extended our sincere condolences to Len's wife Jean and the family.

Life Member – Ray Gibson

It is my sad duty to inform you of the recent passing of RBL Life Member, Ray Gibson on 28th February 2017 following a long illness.

Ray has been a member of the RBL since the 1960's, having initially joined Bittern Branch, Hampshire, where he began his lifelong involvement with the Poppy Appeal.

He moved to the Isle of Wight in the mid-70's and transferred his membership to the East Cowes Branch. During his time on the Island Ray has also been a member of the Shanklin, Wootton Bridge, Newport & Carisbrooke and Brighstone Branches and held many Branch positions including Standard Bearer, Treasurer, Chairman and Poppy Appeal Organiser.

Ray was also Chairman (as well as Vice Chairman and the Poppy Appeal Organiser) of the Isle of Wight County Committee. Ray served on the County Committee between 1995 and 2006 and was a huge advocate and supporter of the Isle of Wight County and the Poppy Appeal. Ray was also a regular attendee at National Conference and was the Second Preference candidate for the South Eastern Area at one time.

In later years, Ray continued to support his wife Karen who is also a long term RBL member who has also served on the County Committee and is a past National Parade Marshal. Ray will be sorely missed by the RBL community.

If you wish to pay your respects in person; the funeral of Ray will held on Wednesday, 12th April, 2017 at 2.15pm at the Isle of Wight Crematorium.

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

(Please ensure correct postage paid for)
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 – *Col Andrew King*
Chairman – *Simon Goldby*
Vice-Chairman – *Tim Russell*
Membership Support Officer - *Christopher Bolton*
Membership Council Rep – *Paul Harris QGM*
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>

Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/groups/hantscountyrb/

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



Farnborough Royal British Legion Fundraising for the Welfare Of Our Armed Forces



An evening of entertainment with Diane Moore here once again

To help raise funds for the Royal British Legion Welfare Fund

One of the most sort after performers in the area her music

Includes Swing, Soul, Pop, Disco and Rock 'n' Roll

Saturday 29th April 2017 8.00 pm

Tickets £9.00 Available from

June Smith Branch Secretary 01252 654215 or

Ben Weston Club Secretary 01252 543306

At The Royal British Legion Club

(Hants) Ltd

51 Cambridge Road East

Farnborough

GU14 6QB



Great Raffle Prizes

All Funds go to the Royal British Legion Welfare Fund

Registered Charity Number: 219279

Celebrate St George's day



In Aid of the Poppy Appeal

An evening of Ukuleles and Songs with the

Jam Tarts

Marian Connolly will entertain with her monologues.

Fish and Chip Supper included



Quiz and Raffle



Totton and Eling Community Centre at 7:30 pm on Saturday 22nd April 2017 in the Palm Room.

Tickets £6.00 on the door

All profits going to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal



Hampshire R.B.L. County Sports 2017

Live On

Golf Pairs

6th February 2017

The Hampshire RBL County Pairs tournament returns to The Army Club, Aldershot on **MONDAY 8th MAY** for the 2017 event so come on Branches, please join in!

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 £45.00 per person (£180 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 8 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.

Due to personal commitments I need to bring forward the closing date for entries and receipt of fees to FRIDAY 14th APRIL . Cheques may be post dated to 1st 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

