

Greater London District Update – April 2017



Royal British Legion Branches receive the Honorary Freedom of the Borough of Hounslow

On 4 April 2017, Councillor Ajmer Grewal, Mayor of Hounslow and Councillor Steve Curran, Leader of Hounslow Council led the way for the Council to explain that the dedicated long service that supports so many veterans and current serving personnel and their families, was the reason behind bestowing the Freedom of the Borough to the seven RBL Branches: **Hounslow, Bedfont & Hatton, Brentford, Chiswick, Heston, Hanworth and Isleworth.**



Photo by kind permission of Hounslow Council

Tributes were paid to the Hounslow RBL branches' eminent contributions to the borough over the years. Andre McGill Chairman at Hounslow RBL said "It was a great honour for the seven RBL branches in the borough to receive the Freedom of the Borough. A big thank you to Hounslow Council and everyone in the borough from all our branches for this honour"

Also in attendance were Mary Harpley, Chief Executive of Hounslow Council, cabinet members and councillors and Maria Pedro, Deputy Lieutenant for Hounslow [The Queen's Representative].

The award is conferred to people of all walks of life who have given outstanding service to the people of Hounslow. Not since 2009 has the Freedom of the Borough been presented to an organisation.

Councillor Steve Curran, Leader of Hounslow Council, said: "The Freedom of the Borough has been given to all seven branches of the Royal British Legion for the tremendous work they do.

“Each branch is an integral part of our community. I think all of us at some point have had a connection with the Royal British Legion and we all know how much support is given to so many.

“To present the Freedom of the Borough to them is the biggest honour we as a Council can give and it is also an honour for us to be able to do this.”

[More Photos on Flickr.](#)

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/96629202@N06/albums/72157680235602281>

The Freedom Trail - 2017

Head Office fundraising have 16 places left to fill on the RBL Freedom Trail, a 4 day trek through the Pyrenees on 18 – 24 September 2017. The Freedom Trail (‘Chemin de la liberté’) follows one of the toughest WW2 escape routes from Nazi-occupied France into Spain, passing memorials of the fallen along the way. The trek is beautiful and poignant, but is also very demanding and requires a lot of training and fundraising to take part.



This beautiful and demanding trek in the Pyrenees takes you from France over the high mountains into Spain. Over four days of walking on remote trails, you will reach heights of over 2500m, passing memorials and plaques dedicated to the bravery of allied Service men and women and refugees who undertook the same paths in fear of their lives. You’ll also pass a British

Halifax bomber whose wreckage remains on the mountain. The route is steep and arduous, taking you through spectacular scenery of cirques, rocky ridges, beech forests and mountain lakes.

For more information contact the FR team on 0333 011 4500 or email events@britishlegion.org.uk.

Unveiling of the Dovers Farm Estate ANZAC Memorial Plaque – 14th May 2017

The Dovers Farm Estate is a community of residents that live in Rainham, Essex.

They have extended an invitation to RBL Members to attend the Dovers Farm Estate unveiling of the memorial plaque of the ANZAC (Australia and New Zealand) Forces who were based in the Hornchurch and Rainham areas who fought in the World Wars.

DATE: Sunday, 14 May 2017, at 10.30am – 12pm on the open green space bounded by Gisborne Gardens, Queenstown Gardens and New Zealand Way, RM13 8JL. When the estate was built in the early 1950’s, an ANZAC connection was immediately made with the streets, naming them after various towns and localities in New Zealand and Australia. In addition to this, the estate was built around an open green space, upon which the original memorial was built. The original memorial is no longer visible, therefore the residents of Dovers Farm Estate decided to raise some funds through a variety of events and replace the memorial plaque.

Please contact John Clarke email: doversfarmvillagegreen@gmail.com; mobile: 07737378618, if you are interested in attend the unveiling ceremony as a guest or to have an RBL Standard in attendance?

Election to the Board of Trustees Results

Successful

Name	Number of Votes
Mrs Denise Edgar	385
Colin Kemp	286
Lt Col Joe Falzon OSJ BEM	280

Rod Bedford 249

Unsuccessful

Paul Harris QGM 235

Hugh Ashton-Moore 221

John Morrison 220

Martin Forde 141

John Clark 130

Mrs Denise Edgar, Colin Kemp and Lt Col Joe Falzon are re-elected to the Board of Trustees for a further term of three years with effect from the close of Annual Conference 2017 unless their tenure ends differently. Rod Bedford is elected to the Board of Trustees for a term of three years with effect from the close of Annual Conference 2017 unless his tenure ends differently.

Branch Chairman's Seminar – Wednesday evening, 31 May 2017

The London Area Office is hosting a GLD Branch Chairman's Seminar on Wednesday 31 May 2017, as part of the UK wide Head Office strategic communication cascades. Ryan Allain, Area Manager for London Operations, will present the new RBL five year Strategy and directives and the Branch Community Support Scheme will feature too. Also a slot covering 'The Great Pilgrimage', commemorative end of WW1, Membership event. The GLD Committee Officers will be in attendance to network and answer questions.

Arrival: 6pm for prompt start at 6.30pm. Location: Haig House, 199 Borough High Street, London, SE1 1AA.



Branch Chairman that are able to attend, should RVSP to the Membership Support Officer, Sarah Stephenson by emailing sstephenson@britishlegion.org.uk.

Branch Secretaries to convey this information to their Chairman.