



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



Edition: 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017

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## WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

*None Reported*

Our Sincere Condolences to Family and Friends

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## National News

### *General Election*

It is reminded to all Branches, that RBL establishments should not be used to advertise, or allow them to be used for political purpose by any political party at any time, especially now in the run up to the General Election. The RBL prides itself on being politically aligned to no single party.

Over the course of the last Parliament, we have successfully campaigned with the public and RBL members to, through the publication of the 2015 General election manifesto:

1. *Enable all Armed Forces widows to retain their pension, regardless of their relationship status.*
2. *Establish a £10m Veterans Hearing Fund for veterans with Service-related hearing loss.*
3. *Secure £140,000 lump sum compensation for veterans diagnosed with Service-related Mesothelioma.*
4. *Ensure that injured Veterans' military compensation payments are no longer taken to cover care costs.*
5. *Create a new Armed Forces Credit Union for service personnel and Veterans, so they can access loans at a better rate of interest and get into the habit of saving.*

**We should be proud of what we have achieved together for Service personnel, Veterans and their families, but there's still more to be done.**

The RBL has therefore produced a new Manifesto for this year, which calls on, whichever Party is in power to:

1. *Ensure questions concerning military service and membership of the Armed Forces community feature in the next national census in 2021.*
2. *Invest in research on 'what works' in treating veterans with Gulf War illnesses, and set up formal communication channels to convey the results of US research developments to these individuals.*
3. *Provide an enhanced package of practical support to corporate signatories of the Armed Forces Covenant.*
4. *Enable veterans to receive treatment for Non-Freezing Cold Injury through Defence Medical Services.*
5. *Ensure divorced or separated spouses and partners of Service personnel are able to access housing support on the same terms as other Armed Forces families.*

The 2017 Manifesto can be found at <http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/campaign/manifesto-2017>

To make sure your voice is heard by the election candidates, and that you campaign safely within the Electoral and Charity Commission rule, please read the 2017 Campaigning Guide, which is attached to the Link.

## ***Festival of Remembrance 2016***

The Festival of Remembrance was awarded a BAFTA, for Entertainment Craft Team, at the 2017 awards, this shows that the Festival of Remembrance is going from strength to strength, the link for the YouTube clip can be found here: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=AOzI5350n6g](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AOzI5350n6g) This is a great honour and shows the Festival is at the forefront of peoples` mind even for award shows.

## ***Shell Shock***

Attached to the Link is a poster for the incredibly moving play “Shell Shock”, which aims to help create a better understanding about mental health and hopefully remove the stigma that our Service personnel still worry about it. The play was launched at the Brighton Fringe Festival and is currently touring the UK. It will be at the West End Centre, Aldershot on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2017, show starts at 1945hrs, and tickets cost £12, concession £10, Veterans & Armed Forces discount 50%, with ID. More information can be found at [www.shellshock.org.uk](http://www.shellshock.org.uk)

## ***Great Pilgrimage 90 (GP90)***

In August 2018, the Legion’s membership – every county, branch and standard – will be asked to assemble for a Remembrance tour of The Somme and the Ypres Salient.

### **GP90 - The Biggest Membership Event in Our History**

Great Pilgrimage 90 (GP90) will be a modern recreation of the 1928 pilgrimage. On the 8 August 1928, the original pilgrims marched in solemn salute to the Menin Gate in Ypres under the watchful gaze of the Prince of Wales, then the Legion’s Patron, to mark the 10th anniversary of the start of the “Last 100 Days Offensive”, which – later that year – led to the signing of the Armistice. On the 8 August 2018, it will be the Legion’s contemporary membership that will proudly carry their Standards along that very same route in Ypres.

### **How is Participating in GP90 Going to Help Your Branch**

This will be the largest membership event in the history of the Legion and presents a huge opportunity for branches to work collaboratively within their local communities; raising the profile of the branch, inspiring the commitment of our current membership and encouraging the recruitment of others.

Attendees will take part in a full two-day programme of visits to battlefield memorial sites, trenches, cemeteries of The Somme and the Ypres Salient, as well the parade on 8 August to the Menin Gate. The tour will be in the comfort of coaches, each accompanied by a battlefield tour guide,

### **Register Your Branch**

We are inviting two members from every Legion branch to take part in GP90. The cost per branch is £1,000, to cover all transport costs, food, accommodation and travel insurance.

The Legion is hoping that the Standards of all counties and branches will be on display at the Menin Gate next year – each representing the history and the contribution of those from their community that gave so much in war, and in the years, that followed. Today, as you read this, we are asking each Legion member to positively encourage their local branches to commit their participative support for this special membership event.

*For more information and to register your branch please visit: [www.rbl.org.uk/gp90](http://www.rbl.org.uk/gp90)*

## ***Executive Board Appointments***

On behalf of Charles Byrne, Director General.

In January 2017, I announced changes to the Executive Board structure that are needed to lead the delivery of our purpose. We are committed to getting the right people in the right place to drive our five-year strategy and to deliver on our four priorities: Those We Serve, Championing Remembrance, Strengthening Membership and Volunteers and Operational Excellence.

We have since made three appointments to our Executive Board which I am pleased to share with you today.

### **Daniel Oppenheimer, Director of Finance**

Daniel joined us in April. Having previously worked as the Director of Finance and Resources at Shelter, Daniel brings valuable practical experience of delivering high quality services from Finance and other functions, with exceptional strategic skills and great strengths in collaborative working.

### **Paul Clements, Director of Information Systems and Data Management**

Paul joined us in May. He has operated at a senior level for the last 14 years, across all sectors, most recently as Chief Information Officer for the Pennine Acute NHS Trust and latterly with the Francis Crick Institute.

### **Emma Cannings, Director of Membership and Volunteering**

Emma will be joining us by July 2017. Emma comes to us from Capita Group where she led the John Lewis account. She has leadership experience across the retail, customer service, recruitment, sales and public sectors. Her initial career was with the Army rising to Captain with 26 Regiment of Royal Artillery. She served in Iraq and as a front-line Troop Commander in Afghanistan.

### ***Women at War 100***

The 2015 Annual Population Survey provides us with the latest statistics on the number of female veterans living in Great Britain, of which there are apparently an estimated **270,000**.

Of these, 127,000 are estimated to be under 65 years old, whilst 143,000 are estimated to be older than 65 years.

We have had a good response from the online sign up to this event, but bearing in mind the above statistics, we're definitely not reaching the hundreds of thousands of women we should!

We have extended the deadline to 9<sup>th</sup> June.

On Friday 7 July, the Legion will commemorate the centenary of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) – the first-time women were formally fully enrolled in our Armed Forces – as well as women's Service in the British Armed Forces ever since.

Guests will need to be seated by 11.30am for the drumhead ceremony, which will be followed by a reception. The National Memorial Arboretum will be open from 9am-5pm and we encourage guests to take the opportunity to explore more than 300 thought-provoking memorials that can be found on the 150-acre site.

Applications are open to **women who have served the Crown on military operations or in uniform**. If you fulfil these criteria, please contact the team.

Places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

If you have any queries, please email [women100@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:women100@britishlegion.org.uk) or phone 020 3053 7216.

## **County News**

### ***County Chairman - Resignation***

It is with deep regret, that to personal reasons, Mr Simon Goldby, the County Chairman has resigned from the post with immediate effect. The County Committee and Staff at the Area Office would like to thank Simon for his hard work since becoming the County Chairman and wish him all the best for future. The County Vice-Chairman, Mr Tim Russell, is currently rung the County and its Committee.

In the forthcoming weeks, your Branch will be invited to submit a nomination for consideration. Your Branch Secretary will be sent the necessary nomination forms and the accompanying guidance documents. The completed nomination forms will need to be completed appropriately, and returned by the deadline stipulated.

If your Branch has a query with regard to the process, please contact Hampshire MSO, Chris Bolton via [cbolton@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:cbolton@britishlegion.org.uk)

### *County Chairman - Election*

The process is now to follow **Membership Handbook Part 2: Counties 2 Feb, Section 2.1.1. County Structure: Para 3.13.** “If a vacancy arises for the office of County Chairman or Vice Chairman, the next highest placed candidate in the latest election is to fill the vacancy. If there is no such person, the Committee may co-opt a temporary replacement for the remainder of the term unless there are more than 15 months until the next election in which case an election must be initiated within one (1) month and completed within four (4) months to fill the vacancy....”.

### *Branch Subscription Fees*

It is time once again to ensure that Branch Treasurers ensure that they complete the Branch Subscription fees form and return it to the Membership services team BEFORE 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017, so that Branch Members can be charged the correct subscription fees at renewal. Remember that the fees can only be added to the register once, and if you do not return the form no subscription fees will be collected for you.

### *Annual Accounts*

It is time for Branch treasurers to start thinking about the Branch Annual Accounts, and ensure that when you submit your paperwork it includes the Bank Statement, for each account held, showing the balance as of 30<sup>th</sup> June. The Accounts then should be signed off by the Branch Committee, do not wait for the AGM, and forwarded to the Area Office by 30<sup>th</sup> September at the very latest. Please do not wait until the very last minute to submit your accounts, as soon as you have the Bank Statement, then please submit the accounts. The RBL promotes the use of Branch Independent Examiners and if you would like to use the facility contact the MSO, who will put you in contact. If you believe you will trouble meeting the deadline, then contact the MSO as soon as possible.

### *Festival of Remembrance Standards*

The County would like to invite Branches to nominate Standard Bearers to to represent our area at this years Festival of Remembrance, Hampshire are eligible to nominate 3 Standards, which has been based on the number of Branches in the County.

The National Team will provide up to £50 expenses per person and onsite catering for lunch and dinner on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November, any other expenses, including travel and accommodation, are the responsibility of the Branch or County.

#### *To nominate*

Please forward your nomination by Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2017

It should include Branch Details, Nominator's Details, Standard Bearers Details – including Email & Telephone and any information that may be of interest to the content or PR teams about the Standard Bearer.

## **Branch News**

### *Totton & Eling Branch*

Pam Warr and members of the Totton and Eling Branch of the Royal British Legion organised an evening of entertainment to celebrate St George's Day on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April in the Totton and Eling Community Centre. Over 50 people attended and they enjoyed a fish and chip supper, quiz and a raffle as well as monologues and songs from the ukulele group “Jam Tarts”. The evening raised £247.46 for the Poppy Appeal with a little more coming in after the event. The Totton and Eling Branch of the Royal British Legion have raised over £24,000 for the Poppy Appeal since November thanks to the generosity of local people. The Branch is always looking for more volunteers to help us.

The next event is a concert by the Marchwood Prelude on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm in the Empire Hall, Totton. Tickets cost £7 and are available on the door. If you would like to help the Totton and Eling Branch of the Royal British Legion raise funds please contact the Branch Secretary, Susan Compton, on 023 8087 3143 or email [legion@compark.co.uk](mailto:legion@compark.co.uk) see poster at end of Newsletter for details

### *Old Basing-Women Combat Soldiers\**

Flight Sergeant Liz McConaghy, 34, a Chinook crewman, stands rocking on her heels — her hands in the pockets of her flight suit, blonde hair roughly up. “Good on them if any girl is going to go for it,” she says. “I’m surprised it’s taken this long.” McConaghy works as a loadmaster on the RAF Support Helicopter Force to provide aviation support to the Royal Marines, British Army and NATO allies. On the streets, she jokes, you wouldn’t recognise her. “I’m the girliest girl. Everything in my gym kit is bright pink! I’m a high heel, little dresses girl.” At work, though, “I’m pretty blokey, kind of like Batman when he puts his batsuit on”.



McConaghy has been stumped by only one physical obstacle: the “piss tube” at the back of the Chinook, which the lads use on long trips. “I’ve never used it and I’m never planning on it,” she grins. She insists women should meet the same physical standards as men. “In Afghanistan, if we all had to run away from the Taliban, I certainly wouldn’t expect people to wait for me. You have to look after your own physical standards so you can keep up and not be a burden.” Physical variety, she says, gives people different advantages. “If you need someone small who can crawl through a car window, I’m your woman. If you need someone to lift a car off

someone dying, someone else might be your man.”

Physicality isn’t everything: soldiers also require good character, judgment, composure under stress, empathy, good communication and problem-solving skills. “It’s the right person for the job,” McConaghy says. “I’ve seen people in five pieces in the back of the aircraft, people with no legs or arms. I’ve seen bits of bodies come on board with no people attached to them. It hasn’t affected me any more or less because I’m a woman. I’ve seen blokes cry at the end of the trip.” However, British Army research suggests service women are more likely to suffer from mental health problems, including anxiety and depression, than their male colleagues.

McConaghy loves the guys she works with. “It’s like having 80 big brothers — they’re my best mates.” Yes, there’s banter. They call her Doris. “‘Doris, get the brews on.’ But it’s a term of affection and I quite like that.” On her helmet is a pink patch with the name Gloria Stitz. “Say it fast,” she grins, insisting she gives as good as she gets. “I’ve got mates in the big banks and the corporate world and I get the impression they’re in a more sexist environment. We’ve all seen shitty stuff together. You get tested in that point where you see people’s true character — you’re at your most exposed. We form tight bonds, based on the emotional pressure you get put under, and civvies I don’t think get that.”

### *Aldershot*

Aldershot is celebrating its close ties to Queen Victoria with its annual parade and fun day. The day starts at 10am in the town centre with live music, children’s fairground rides, classic car show and much more, and continues until 5pm. The main parade starts at 11am from the Princess Hall, and includes marching bands, the military, schools, veterans and many more, they march along Grosvenor road, Station road and High street before returning to the Princess Hall. All are welcome to join with Standards, see poster at end of Newsletter for details.

## 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**

11 Jun, 9 Jul, 13 Aug, 10 Sep, 8 Oct

**Drill Hall**  
**Lymington**  
SO41 3RU  
**Mondays**

12 Jun, 10 Jul, 14 Aug, 11 Sep, 9 Oct

## Events Diary

Date	Title	Location	Contact
10 <sup>th</sup> June 10am-5pm	Victoria Day Parade	Princess Hall Aldershot	Princess Hall 01252 327671
11 <sup>th</sup> June	Fete	North Camp Village	Farnborough RBL
15 <sup>th</sup> June	The Malayan Emergency 1948-1960	Museum of Army Flying	<a href="http://www.armyflying.com/events">www.armyflying.com/events</a> 01264 784421
16 <sup>th</sup> June	A Salute to India	Milford on Sea	Sally – 01590 642917 (after 6pm)
17 <sup>th</sup> June	Music from Around the World	Empire Hall Totton	Marchwoodorchestras@gmail.com
21 <sup>st</sup> June	County Committee Meeting	Farnborough	MSO – Chris Bolton
29 <sup>th</sup> June	Shell Shock Play	West End Centre – Aldershot	<a href="http://www.westendcentre.co.uk">www.westendcentre.co.uk</a> 01252 330040
7 <sup>th</sup> July	Women at War	National Memorial Arboretum	<a href="mailto:Women100@britishlegion.org.uk">Women100@britishlegion.org.uk</a> 020 3053 7216
20 <sup>th</sup> July	The Malayan Emergency 1948-1960	Museum of Army Flying	<a href="http://www.armyflying.com/events">www.armyflying.com/events</a> 01264 784421
5 <sup>th</sup> September	National Memorial Arboretum	Winchester	Margaret Bates – 023 8026 9725 £17.00 per person

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 costs, location and a contact.

## Notices

### ***The Malayan Emergency 1948-1960***

Malaysia's undeclared wars will be the subject of two informative and illustrated talks at the Museum of Army Flying in June and July. The lectures, called *The Malayan Emergency 1948-1960* and *The Indonesian Confrontation 1962-1966* respectively, will be presented by Stuart Wakefield who has given talks on the subject at Malaysia's National Museum and military events.

Stuart said: "Modern day Malaysia fought three insurgency wars on its territory for almost the entire period between 1948 and 1989. "The first lecture, considers the Malayan Emergency from 1948 to 1960, in which the British Colonial power lead Commonwealth and Malayan Armed forces against the Communists.

"It will cover the developing counter-insurgency tactics after two years of learning how to fight in the jungle. "The second lecture, considers the Indonesian Confrontation from 1962 to 1966, in which the newly independent Malaysia joined British and Commonwealth forces defending the Borneo border against Indonesian aggressors, which was possibly Britain's most efficient use of tri-service military power in the post National Service era."

Stuart's interest in jungle warfare in SE Asia goes back to the 1960s, and subsequently continued with work in the region, culminating in retirement in Malaysia. He spent fifty years with helicopters – despite never enjoying flying - with significant operational experience of UK and foreign military, head-of-state, oil and gas exploration plus safety system development.

The lectures start at 7pm and take place on Thursday 15 June and Thursday 20 July respectively.

A curry supper is also available from the Museum's Apache Café beforehand from 6pm for £7.50.

Lecture tickets cost £10 and are available from [www.armyflying.com/events](http://www.armyflying.com/events) or by calling 01264 784421.

## 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 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 – *Col Andrew King*  
Chairman – *Vacant*  
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](http://www.BritishLegion.Org.Uk)  
County Website:  
<http://counties.britishlegion.org.uk/counties/hampshire>  
Facebook Page  
[www.facebook.com/groups/hantscountyrb/](http://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.**

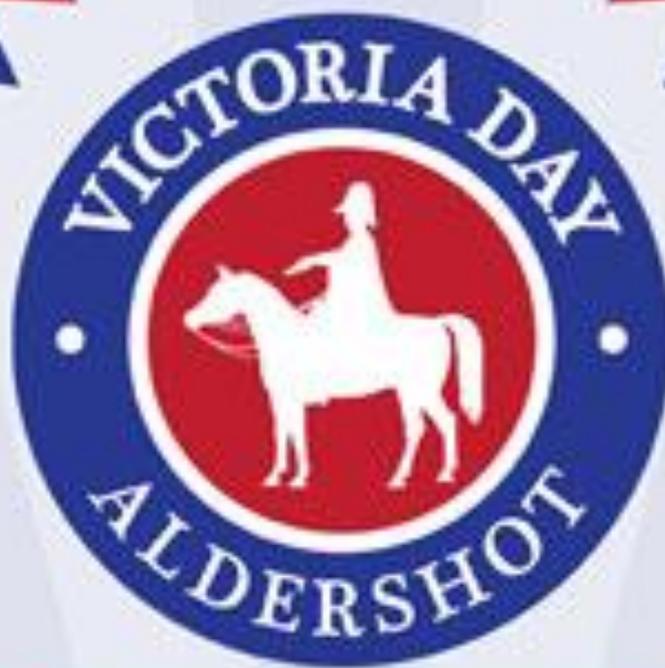
Membership documents can be found at the following website:  
<http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/membership/already-a-member/membership-documents/>

The login and password has now been removed from the site, and is no longer required.

### *Old Basing-Women Combat Soldiers\**

This article was taken from the Sunday times, Women Combat Soldiers: the inside story, published on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2017, the full article is too large to include in the newsletter but can be found on the Sunday Times Website (subscription required)

-----Photo taken from Sunday Times, Charlie Clift-----



**SATURDAY 10 JUNE 2017**

**10am - 5pm ★ Aldershot Town Centre**

**Parade at 11am from Princes Hall**

**Community market stalls • Classic car show**  
**Live music • Children's funfair rides**  
**Street entertainment • Free parking\***



**A celebration of Aldershot**  
Organised with the community,  
for the community



[www.rushmoor.gov.uk/victoriaday](http://www.rushmoor.gov.uk/victoriaday)

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Aldershot

**ANYTIME FITNESS**  
ALDERSHOT

\*in all Rushmoor Borough Council car parks in Aldershot (excluding the Co-op)

**RUSHMOOR**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Saturday 17th June 2017

**Marchwood Prelude Orchestra presents**  
**“Music From Around The World”**



Empire Hall, S. Parade,  
Salisbury Rd, Totton, SO40 3PY  
(Conservative Club building)

**Admission : 6:30 pm      Concert starts : 7:00 pm**

**Adults: £7, accompanied U16, £2**

**Tickets on the door, or reserve via email**

[marchwoodorchestras@gmail.com](mailto:marchwoodorchestras@gmail.com)

**Proceeds to The Royal British Legion**

