



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



Edition: 1st August 2017

Registered Charity Number: 219279.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

*Commander RN P Rogers – Brockenhurst
Peter Bull – Headley & District (President)
William S James – Eastleigh & Chandlers Ford*

Our Sincere Condolences to Family and Friends

**The Hampshire Link is published for the benefit of ALL members of the County
and should be given the widest circulation as possible.**

National News

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,

Assistance with Funds

There is a program to allow larger Branches to provide assistance to smaller Branches who may not be in a position to finance the Pilgrimage themselves.

Larger Branches are requested to send donations to the Area Office in Southampton, making sure the donation is marked **GP90 ONLY**, the Area office will collect and ringfence these funds. Smaller Branches then can make applications to the Area office for support, **However, Branches are requested and must prove that they have done all they can to raise the money themselves.** Branches that have failed to submit MS1 or Accounts for the current year will not be able to apply for assistance.

Closing date for applications is 1st March 18, and final decisions made later in the month, the Area Office will then register and make payment on behalf of the Branches concerned. If the Area Office receives more than require it will be sent to the HQ fund, to assist other Counties, and any unused money will be return per-rotta to County back to Branches.

AS GP90 paperwork states 2 members from the COMMUNITY take part, it does not mean that only RBL Members have both places, places may go to deserving members of the community.

There is a Tour running parallel to GP90 which covers 5 days and takes in the GP parade on 8th August 2018, and cost £429pp and details can be found here: www.leger.co.uk/battlefields/tours/rbl-remembering-wwi

Festival of Remembrance 2017

Branch secretaries should have received a copy of the application form for RBL members to attend this year's Festival of Remembrance. Please remember Branches are only entitled to 4 tickets, and they are for RBL Members and immediate family member or carer. Tickets cost £10 each and deadline for applications is 29th August 2017. Priority should be given to those members that have NOT attended in the past.

Veterans Gateway – Yammer group

For members of the RBL that have access to and have joined the Office365 (Membership Administration Portal) a new support group for the new Veterans Gateway has been set up. It will include information on how to use, directions for Branches, Newsletters and updates.

To join the group sign into MAP, go to Yammer, and click the “Discover more groups” tab on the left hand side of the screen, under “all groups” you will find Veterans Gateway.

Legion Magazine

The June 2017 edition of the Legion Magazine, along with back issues are now available online at www.britishlegion.org.uk/membership/legion-magazine/

Membership Handbook

The Membership handbook for 2017 is now available under Publications on the Royal British Legion website, and attached to this Newsletter is a short list of amendments to the 2016 Handbook for Counties and Branches.

Royal Charter

The Royal Charter is currently being updated prior to publication in October 2017, and is currently unavailable to read on the RBL Website.

County News

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 30th June. The Accounts then should be signed off by the Branch Committee, **do not wait for the Branch AGM**, and forwarded to the Area Office by 30th 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.

The County, and RBL in general, must have the Accounts submitted to the Charity Commission by a certain date to be compliant with Charity Laws, Branches are reminded that failure to submit accounts in a timely manner will result in the Branch unable to select members for election to County Officer roles, unable to send delegates to the National Conference and unable to send delegates to the County Conference, who would vote on matters pertaining to the County.

County Committee Vacancies

The County Committee currently only has 9 members and are actively looking to co-op some new members, the Committee meets every 2 months, at either the Area Office, Old Basing RBL Club or the Civic offices in Farnborough on a rotational basis. Please if you are interested in helping shape the County, have ideas that drive the County and Branches forward in the future, consider a place on the team. If you are interested then please put your name forward to a member of the county team, contact the Editor of the Hampshire Link, or contact the Area Office for more information

County Conference Committee Vacancy

The Hampshire County Conference Committee have a vacancy from those elected from floor of conference by delegates at the last County Conference in January 2017. Due to Bob Bartlett now on County Committee - a vacancy has occurred.

A volunteer is requested from any Branch Member to be part of the 6 person team preparing for Conference 2018 at Jubilee Hall, Little Shore Road, 6 Bishops Waltham on Saturday 20th January 2018
The County Conference Committee (3 members of the County Committee and 3 members from Branches) will meet on Wednesday 22nd November 2017 at the Area Office, 104 Above Bar Street, Southampton SO14 7DT at 11am for about 2 hours and again prior to conference at Jubilee Hall from 9am - to prepare for conference.

Please note that members of the Conference Committee CANNOT be a delegate to County Conference and do not have a vote at conference

Any volunteer should contact the Membership Support Officer, Chris Bolton by letter or on email at cbolton@britishlegion.org.uk giving their details.

Recruit Advisor Course - Dorset

Dorset County are running two Recruiting advisor courses at Bovington on 2nd August and 21st September and currently have places available if anyone in Hampshire would like to attend.

The course will cover Legion Values, Origins & the Legion now, Current Membership, Events and much more.

The best thing about having a Recruiting Adviser in the branch is that she/he will colour anything that the branch takes on, or gets involved in, because... they have been trained, and given the tools, to introduce the recruiting element into the branch offering. We all think we can recruit, but most of us have the single most pressing thing on our minds, and don't have the time to do recruiting justice as well. This is an opportunity to train a specialist for the branch committee so that your membership numbers stay healthy, and the branch thrives.

Lunch and refreshments will be provided, and transport from/to Wool train station can be arranged.

For more details please contact the course trainer Ian (JJ) Jarvis IJarvis@britishlegion.org.uk the Dorset County Recruiting Officer, however requests to attend the course must go through the Hampshire Area Office and the MSO Chris Bolton.

Community Fund Raiser – North Hampshire

The new CFR for North Hampshire is Jim Parker, who lives with his wife Maggi in Waterlooville. Jim served with the RA, prior to working as an instructor at the MoD Technical College in Bordon.

Jim enjoys walking Snickers (Chocolate Labrador) or out on his Triumph M/C fundraising as member of the Riders Branch.

To contact Jim for assistance then please email:- eparker@britishlegion.org.uk

Branch News

Totton & Eling Branch

On Saturday 17th June, the Marchwood Prelude held their "Music from around the world" concert in the Empire Hall, Totton. The programme included songs and dances from the Fijian Singers and Dancers who are based in Marchwood. Their wonderful songs, dances and colourful costumes together with the very warm weather on the day helped the audience to imagine the palm-lined beaches of Fiji.

The concert was organised by Phil Elsey with music arranged by John Bell and conducted by Catherine Gosney.

A donation of £300 from proceeds of tickets sales and raffle have been given to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and members of the Totton and Eling Branch attended and helped organise the concert.

The Marchwood Prelude and Orchestra have supported the Totton and Eling Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal fundraising campaign for many years and we are extremely grateful to them.



Earl Mountbatten Memorial Branch

The annual memorial service for Earl Mountbatten will take place on Sunday 10th September at Romsey Abbey. The service will be conducted by the Vicar of Romsey, the Revd Tim Sledge, and will commence at 3pm.

Standards will assemble outside the Abbey at 2.45pm to await the arrival of the official guests. All members of the RBL in Hampshire are invited to attend along with the Branch Standard.

A return has been attached to the Hampshire Link, and the Parade Organiser requests all Branches complete and return the proforma even if the Branch is not attending, the returns should be with Brian Soffe, by no later than 31st August, if you require more information then please contact the Hampshire Link or Brian

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**

13 Aug, 10 Sep, 8 Oct

**Drill Hall
Lymington
SO41 3RU
Mondays**

14 Aug, 11 Sep, 9 Oct

There is scope for Standard Bearer training to be undertaken in the North of the County, so if you would like a course to be run, then contact the County Parade Marshall, Steve Forward, to make arrangements. Steve puts a lot of his own time into training and therefore if you ask for a course to be run then please attend.

Events Diary

Date	Title	Location	Contact
5 th Sep 17	National Memorial Arboretum	Winchester	Margaret Bates – 023 8026 9725 £17.00 per person
10 th Sept 17	EMMB Service	Romsey Abbey	
14 th Oct 17	Exmoor 30:30 challenge (see poster)	Entry £50 Min Sponsor £250	events@britishlegion.org.uk 033 3011 4500
18 th Oct 17	Royal Marines Band Concert	Guildford GLive	www.glive.co.uk 01483 369350
11 th Nov 17	Armistice Day		
11 th Nov 17 1930hrs	Meet Tommy Atkins	Phoenix Theatre & Arts Centre, Bordon	01420 472664 www.phoenixarts.co.uk
12 th Nov 17	Remembrance Sunday		
20 th Jan 2018 1100hrs	County Conference	Jubilee hall Bishops Waltham	MSO – Area Office
8 th Aug 2018	Grand Pilgrimage 90	Menin Gate	MSO - Area Office

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

Meet Tommy Atkins - Show

This brand-new play written by playwright/actor/musician Peter Gill (Talbert house, The Jerry Lee Lewis Story) details, through the eyes of a simple “Tommy”, the reality of war for those who actually fought it. In an astonishing solo performance, *Meet Tommy Atkins* takes the audience through his war – a war that saw him fight at Ypres, Passchendaele, Loos and on the Somme and that took him to the depths of despair, but also brought him unique comradeship that he would never find again. From the beginning of the war to the end, Private Tommy Atkins was there. This is HIS Story.

This solo performance takes place at the Phoenix Theatre & Arts Centre, Station Road, Bordon, Hampshire, GU35 9HH at 7.30pm on 11th November 2017.

Tickets are £12, but reduced to £11 for current members of the Armed Forces or Veterans.

Appeal for Assistance

Has anyone out there served with Bob Flegg (Aged 92) on board HMS Trouncer or HMS Thane on the North Atlantic Convoys during WW2, he is desperate to contact old ship mates, please either look at the County Facebook page, or contact the Link Editor so your details can be passed to Bob.

Warning Alert – Suspicious Email Circulating

Members of the RBL should be aware that an Email is circulating which appears to have been generated by the RBL.

The subject message “Your invoice notice number...” is reportedly from jstrange@britishlegion.org.uk and contains a link to download and pay the invoice.



THIS EMAIL IS IN FACT FROM A FOREIGN ACCOUNT, please **do not** click on any link, and delete immediately

Royal Marines Concert Band

Seafarers UK, Britain’s main maritime charity, was founded in 1917, as King George’s Fund for Sailors, to support seafarers and their families during the First World War. In its centenary year, the charity’s mission remains the same, to support the past, present and future of seafaring.

As part of these centenary celebrations, the Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines Portsmouth will perform in a charity concert, at GLive on Wednesday 18th October, in aid of Seafarers UK.

The Royal Marines Bands contain some really talented musicians who always deliver a lively, entertaining programme including classical pieces and band numbers as well as the military music for which they are famous. Guildford is fortunate to enjoy an annual concert and every year we are very well entertained to a wide variety of music. The Corps of Drums is always popular.

Concert tickets are available at £26.50, £23.50 and £20.50 (inclusive of booking fee) and all proceeds go to Seafarers UK. Concessions are less £1. Groups of ten or more save 10%.

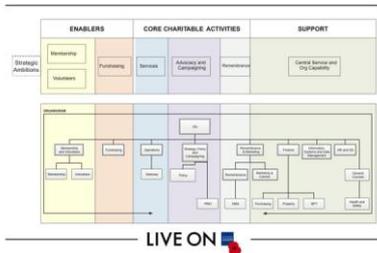
Tickets are available from the GLive Box Office, London Road, Guildford, at glive.co.uk or on 01483 369350

The concert is at GLive on 18th October at 7.30pm.

Legion Presentations

As part of the communications developed to show how we support the Armed Forces community, we’ve produced a series of videos that feature Legion staff and volunteers explaining our six key service areas. These videos are in addition to the print collateral that was distributed to Legion offices and centres in June. The key brand message is that The Royal British Legion have been supporting Service men and women, veterans and their families since 1921 and that ‘We’re Not Going Anywhere’.

The series consists of one longer format two minute video covering all our service areas and six shorter videos highlighting each individually – finance, independent living, care, recovery, respite and employment. While all of these videos will eventually be featured on our social media channels, they are now available for staff to download and use through our Vimeo account at <https://vimeo.com/britishlegion> . Additional information on these videos can also be found on the Marketing Resources page on MyLegion <http://mylegion.britishlegion.org.uk/sites/CorpComms/MarketingResources/SitePages/Home.aspx>



[The Royal British Legion on Vimeo](https://vimeo.com/britishlegion)
vimeo.com

The Royal British Legion is a member of Vimeo, the home for high quality videos and the people who love them.

Could you please ensure all your staff are aware of these new resources and that they are available for their use when promoting and speaking about the work the Legion does.

Contact Us

IT'S YOUR NEWSLETTER!!!

ALL LEGION ENQUIRIES
(including Welfare Request)
Should be directed to the contact centre
0808 802 8080

If anyone has any articles they would like to see published in the newsletter then please contact the editor at:

HampshireLink@Outlook.com

Or via the Area Office

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

- 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 – *Jim Parker*

Area Office:
104 Above Bar Street
Southampton
Hampshire
SO14 7DT

Almost anything will be considered for inclusion from Jokes to tips, remarkable personal achievements and Branch events. Even adverts will be accepted.

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.



EXMOOR 30:30 CHALLENGE

SATURDAY 14 OCTOBER 2017

Have you got what it takes to carry 30lbs of kit over either 30 miles or 30km of Exmoor whilst navigating in poor visibility across rough ground?

The challenge starts and finishes at Memorial Hall, Exford, Somerset, TA24 7PP.

Challenge yourself and raise monies for our Armed Forces community

To book visit rbl.org.uk/get-involved/fundraise/adrenaline-events/exmoor-3030/

Entry: £50 pp, Minimum sponsorship: £250 pp

Email Events@britishlegion.org.uk or call 033 3011 4500

THE ROYAL
BRITISH
LEGION



Registered charity number: 11 9579

Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**