



We Will Remember Them

Ms S Mears TD, Mr W Elson, Mr J Allsop & Mr P Kendell – Brockenhurst

Mr W Price – Milford on Sea

Viscount V Alanbrooke – Hartley Wintney

Mr J Goode – Alresford Sub Branch

Miss S Alden – Headley & District

Our sincere condolences to family and friends

Secretaries – The Hampshire Link is for ALL County Members, so please ensure this newsletter gets the widest distribution within your Branch.

National News

GP90

The deadline for signing up to participate in the Great Pilgrimage to the Menin Gate has now passed, for those that have signed up to take part, please ensure payment has been made, and cleared to RBL financial, by the 31st of March otherwise you will lose your allocation.

Office 365 (MAP)

Some of you will be aware with the new Data Protection laws (GDPR) coming this May, we have had to tighten how Membership data is accessed and distributed. To be compliant we will now be looking to disabling Email forwarding. Forwarding data to personal emails poses a risk if an Office 365 account is sending personal information to an email address outside of the system. We have recently had the situation where a secretary stepped down but did not remove their email forwarding or inform the new secretary that it was still in place.

In the past the Legion would have been liable for any data breaches but with the new laws coming into effect in May, fines can be enforced on individuals and the maximum fines are increasing. Some of you would have seen in the news about the charity worker who had personal data from work on his personal computer and was fined heavily.

To help us comply **I will be turning off the Email Forwarding for the majority of accounts on Monday the 19th of February.** The only accounts we will keep this feature on is ones that are set up to forward to a British Legion account

(e.g. MSOs) or to another RBL.Community account (e.g. individual that has two roles.)

I appreciate that this may initially inconvenience some branches but it is necessary to ensure we are ready for May.

County News

Hampshire County Welfare Fund

There are still Branches in Hampshire holding onto large sums of money in their GPF funds, that are not using them for the Welfare work that they are vital for. Branches should only be holding enough funds in GPF to cover 6 months' worth of working capital, so please, please, please send any large sums of money you are holding, unless for a major project, to the Area Office for the county welfare Fund. If you have a need to hold onto a large sum of money, for a major project, please make the Area Office or County Chairman aware, as they will be chasing Branches to release excessive funds.

Membership Council Rep

Some of you may be aware that Paul Harris QGM, our Membership Council rep for the past few years has been co-opted onto the Board of Trustees for the RBL. Paul has been working with the County Committee ensuring that everything is run smoothly, offering his advice and support where necessary. The County Committee would like to congratulate Paul on his very worthwhile promotion and thank him for all his hard work and dedication to Hampshire and the also the other Counties he served with.

His advice and services will be sorely missed, and we look forward to meeting and working with his replacement whoever they may be.

Branch News

Milford on Sea

A Military memorial service to honour William (Bill) Price (1915-2018), his life and D-Day service will be held at Christchurch Priory on Thursday 22nd March 2018, at 3:00pm.

All friends and fellow RBL Members are welcome to attend, a free midday recital and ticketed evening Prior tour will be available. Standard Bearers are requested to contact Steve Forward if they would like to attend.



Gosport & Alverstoke



On New Year's Day after a convivial evening spent seeing the New Year in at the Gosport RBL club, Andy Brown, Branch Chairman Gosport and Alverstoke RBL went for a bracing dip in the Solent after a collection held in the club raised £72 for the Poppy

Appeal

This was preceded by a 5-mile fancy dress run around Gosport with Gosport Road Runners running club as part of my build to running the Southampton half marathon a month before his 56th birthday on 22nd April to raise funds for the Poppy appeal. This will be the furthest I will have run my previous furthest distance has been 10 miles at the Great South Run in 2016 raising over £1100 for the Poppy Appeal

My fundraising page is here

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/andrew-brown137>



Kingsclere

2017' was a great year for the Kingsclere Branch of the Royal British Legion; we provided a very popular (our first ever!) display at the village fete which generated a great deal of interest and discussion, had our most successful and dynamic Poppy Appeal ever including a fantastic Poppy Appeal launch complete with an armoured vehicle, all topped off by a outstanding turn out at the village Remembrance Parade.



Kingsclere Poppy Appeal Launch, 2017

2018 looks to be even more exciting for the branch in what will be a very busy year. The planned World War 1 centenary commemorations across the village are gaining a lot of interest and momentum, with the branch supporting the Parish Council in the delivery of a number of events. Planned so far is a dinner dance for the 10th November, poppy filters to illuminate the Parish Church, film nights, WW1 lectures and talks, bell ringing, beacon lighting, poppy displays in shop and house windows across the village and much more, spanning the whole of November.

The branch AGM took place in January voted in a new committee who are starting to plan a number of exciting events through the year to raise the profile of our small but expanding branch.

We are busy organising our first event of 2018; a fun day planned for the 07th April, which will be held in the village centre with lots of exciting activities planned, including a band and a visit from the Basingstoke and Dean mayor.

Additionally, we are coordinating with the organisers of other village events, to look how we can support and provide people with information of what the Royal British Legion is about.



RBL Stand at the Kingsclere Village Fete, 2017

Working up to the World War 1 commemorations, we have the branch Parade Marshal and Standard Bearer attending the Great Pilgrimage 90, representing the 35 soldiers who gave their all during the war. In total some 70 plus soldiers left the village to fight in the conflict, which must have had a huge impact on this small community. We are suffering from the “small branch syndrome”, where recruiting new members is a slow process and filling the mandatory committee positions is challenging, however as a branch we will pull together to overcome these hurdles and make the branch better and stronger than ever.

Bordon & District

The Bordon & District Branch played host to the County Chairman, Tim Russell, at its latest meeting, and he spoke to the Branch about GP90 and the need to sign up before 1st March. Tim was very pleased to find that even though Bordon & District is quiet a small Branch, only 55 members, they are very active in the Community doing Welfare work, and had also completed fundraising so that they could partake in GP90.

Tim also thanks 2 former members of the County Committee, Tom Ferguson & Darron Back, who due to ill health have had to retire this year from their roles.

Totton & Eling

New Local Drop-In scheme

In an attempt to reach out to the local people we have opened our Branch Hall to the public every morning for years. We have posted articles on Facebook and our website, offered free refreshments and even paid for adverts in the local press, but without much success.

The problem is that our hall is not in the centre of town, has limited car parking and there is very little ‘footfall’ by its door.

In January this year we decided that instead of waiting for people to come to us, that we would



go to the people. We hired a small room in the Totton community centre which has excellent free car parking and is constantly busy. The community centre is a very popular venue for many events and classes.

We have started small by providing a ‘Drop-In’ once a month for 2 hours on a Thursday morning. It has been advertised around town with posters and with postings on Facebook.

In January we had 12 visitors. The majority were professional people from local doctor’s surgeries and other agencies who showed a great interest in the concept. In February we had eight people most of whom just wanted to chat with likeminded veterans.

We were able to provide one lady and her disabled husband with a lot of useful information about how she could improve her social contacts in her local area.

We intend to continue with this project for 3 more months and will then review its effectiveness, but so far it is looking as though it will be successful, in which case we will at least continue or even expand it.

Old Basing

On 7th April 2pm - 4pm, Old Basing Royal British Legion Branch and Women's Section are holding a Cake and Bake sale for the Poppy Appeal. We will also serve Cream teas. We would be grateful for any contributions of baked goods which we could sell and all visitors are welcome to join us for a delicious cream tea.

Old Basing Royal British Legion and Social Club:

If you haven't heard of Basingstones it's a bit of fun for the Basingstoke community. It's a bit of hide and seek with stones. Children paint stones and hide them and when they find other stones take a picture which they upload to the

Basingstones page. Once they have done this, hide they the stone again so someone else can find it and so it passes through the community. Bringing back community spirit, getting children outside more and making an imprint of a fabulous memory for their futures. One of the boys who plays for Basingstoke under 8s colts football team has made one for us at Old Basing RBL so keep your eyes peeled and see whether you can spot it for us - do please let us know if you do and of course, post it to @Basingstones!



Poppy Appeal

There is a coffee morning for PAO`s at the Southampton Pop-In-Centre on Wednesday 28th March, an opportunity for PAO`s to meet and discuss ideas for this year`s Appeal, Jim & Sarah (CFR`s) along with the Area Manager and other members of the team will be hand to give updates and answer questions.

If you would like to attend then please contact Jim at eparker@britishlegion.org.uk by 1st March

A full list of Poppy Fundraising events can be found at <https://indd.adobe.com/view/3c3fdace-f446-402a-9bfd-9b2bc737cac0>

Standard Bearers

Training

The County Parade Marshal, Steve Forward, would like to invite all Standard Bearers to partake in training sessions to ensure that they are kept current.

Training takes place at Eastleigh, Pavilion in the Park, 1 Kingfisher Road, Eastleigh, SO50 9LH on Sundays at 1400hrs, Lymington, Drill Hall, Bath Road, Lymington S041 3RU on Mondays at 1030hrs, and in the Fleet Area (Venue TBA) on Wednesdays at 1900hrs.

Training runs from March through to October inclusive, and all Standard Bearers are urged to take training courses as beginners or long serving to enhance their position as the Legion`s presence in the community.

Eastleigh:	Lymington:	Fleet:
Mar 11 th	Mar 12 th	Mar 14 th
Apr 8 th	Apr 9 th	Apr 11 th
May 6 th	May 14 th	May 16 th
Jun 10 th	Jun 11 th	Jun 13 th
Jul 8 th	Jul 9 th	Jul 11 th
Aug 12 th	Aug 13 th	Aug 15 th
Sep 2 nd	Sep 10 th	Sep 12 th
Oct 7 th	Oct 8 th	Oct 10 th

The Parade Marshal, Steve Forward can be contacted on 023 8069 3028, or stevemo@stevemo.plus.com or Deputy Parade Marshal, Dave Graham on 01425 623102 or davidkarengraham1@yahoo.co.uk for more information.

Steve and Dave put a lot of effort into training Standard Bearers so please come along and give them your support and ensure you are showing the Legion, and your Branch in the best possible light. Training and Drills have changes over time, so come along and ensure you are kept current.

Notices

WW1 Centenary

The Legion is marking the Centenary of the First World War (2014-2018) with commemorations in the UK and republic of Ireland with a focus on remembrance, education and legacy.

There a number of activities that communities can get involved in and more details about each can be found

<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/remembrance/ww1-centenary/>

Remembrance Travel

Royal British Legion is on a mission to find all surviving WWII veterans. The Treasury is enabling a series of free-of-charge* tours for WWII veterans to return to where they served to pay their respects to their fallen comrades. The tours are being funded by LIBOR fines, and will enable a WWII veteran to return with a family member and carer.

The Rt. Hon, The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Phillip Hammond, said: "I had the privilege of meeting veterans last year, and I'm delighted that we can continue to support those who want to return with the Royal British Legion to the countries where they served.

A call for help!

There is no database of veterans from WWII who are still alive today so the Royal British Legion is calling upon the general public to spread the word and ensure every surviving veteran gets the chance to go back one last time.

Nichola Rowlands-Smith, says: "We need you! We know how great the British public can be, and we're relying on everyone to help us spread the word to find every single living WWII veteran. There's no database, so if you're a grandchild, neighbour or carer and know someone who fought in WWII please tell them about these amazing tours."

For WWII veterans wishing to benefit from this tour, they need to apply via Remembrance Travel's tour operator, Arena Travel on 01473 660800, or visit <http://www.arenatravel.com/.../rem.../libor-tours-of-remembrance>. Remembrance Travel will also be offering group travel opportunities for WWII veteran associations too.

Never Such Innocence – Creative writing

As part of our Thank-You movement for the centenary commemorations, The Royal British Legion and Never Such Innocence are holding a nationwide competition for schools and young people.

Never Such Innocence are organising a nationwide competition inviting schools and young people to share a message of Remembrance and hope.

We are encouraging young people to pay tribute to the generation of the First World War by saying *Thank You* through a creative expression of appreciation and gratitude. The competition invites children and young people to submit poetry, art and songs inspired by the events of 1914-18.

Entries inspired by the theme of *Thank You* could feature at Legion events such as the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall in 2018. The competition is free to enter and the deadline for entries is 16 March 2018.

Please visit the website below for more information.

<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/remembrance/w1-centenary/thank-you/never-such-innocence-creative-competition/#.W13NcphGwvM.facebook>

Silent Soldier

RBL Hampshire & Isle of Wight are running a Silent Soldier campaign through-out the year, companies, businesses, churches, local authorities, private individuals and other well know establishments are being contacted to purchase a Silent Soldier and place them ready to commemorate the end of WW1.

The Silent Soldier can be fixed to buildings and walls and will appear as troops did between 1914-1918 when returning home silently.

If you are interested then please contact CFR(S) Sarah Ferris sferris@britishlegion.org.uk or CFR(N) Jim Parker eparker@britishlegion.org.uk

"When the soldiers got back to England they were given a railway ticket to their home station. From there they were on their own, and would be seen across the country, walking back home, down the roads and across the fields returning to their families."

The RBL is keen to show that all those that gave their lives fighting in "The Great War" are not forgotten, so if you know of any organisation that would be willing to take part please contact either Sarah or Jim for further details.

Bovington Mountain Bikes

Starting at the RBL club "The Legionnaire" in Bovington the British Army tank training area in Bovington offers mountain bike sportive riders a multi terrain area of tracks, concrete roadways, sand pits, water features, humps, bumps, mud and tanks in open areas and woodlands.

The ride consists of 3 off road circuits of about 6 miles each open to those over 14 years and offering the off-road environment a mountain bike rider enjoys. There is also 1 concreted circuit suitable for families and young riders of about 6 miles. A total course of approximately 24 miles.

Entering the event allows you access to the British Army Tank Training landscape and you can ride the whole circuit or one of the three individual circuits as many times as you wish.

For further details and to enter go to: <https://rbl-bovington.wixsite.com/mountainbike>
<https://rblbovington.nutickets.com/38571>

The event takes place on Saturday 28th April 2018

FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE

11.11.2018
100 YEARS ON



@sotonremembers
FOR MORE INFO

THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION



Mayflower
Theatre

Events Diary

2018

March

22nd – Bill Price Memorial Service – 15:00hrs
Christchurch Priory
28th – Coffee Morning
Poppy Appeal Organisers
Southampton Pop-In-Centre

April

28th – Bovington Mountain Bike
See Attached Poster

June

9th – War Requiem – 19:30hrs
Winchester Cathedral
Tickets £20, £28, £35, Under 18`s & Students £8
www.tickets.winchester-cathedral.org.uk
10th – Poppy Walk – Southampton
Details TBC
23rd – War Requiem – 19:30hrs
Tewkesbury Abbey
Tickets £20, £28, £35, Under 18`s & Students £8
www.burfordsingers.org.uk

July

7th – RNAS Yeovilton International Air Day
See attached poster for details

October

21st -Great South Run
Portsmouth
Details TBC
25th – County Poppy Launch
Farnborough, North Hampshire
Details TBC
26th – Uniformed Collection
Westquay, Southampton
Details TBC
27th – Poppy Appeal Launch
Poppy Appeal period **27th** to **11th** November

November

11th – Hampshire Festival of Remembrance
Mayflower Theatre, Southampton
Show starts at 19:00hrs and lasts about 2hrs
Tickets £22.00 – Available now (Selling fast)
Box Office: 02380 711811
Mayflower.org.uk

County Websites

RBL Website:

www.BritishLegion.org.uk

County Website:

<http://counties.britishlegion.org.uk/counties/hampshire>

Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/groups/hantscountyrbl/

Poppy Appeal

www.facebook.com.poppy.hampshirerbl

Contact us

It`s your newsletter!!!

If anyone has any articles that they would like published in the Newsletter then please contact the editor at:

HampshireLink@outlook.com

Or

Editor – Hampshire Link
15 Champney Close
Whitehill, Bordon
Hampshire
GU35 9DX

(Please ensure correct postage is paid)

By the 26th of the month

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

ALL LEGION INQUIRIES

(including Welfare requests)

Should be directed to the national call centre

0808 802 8080

County Personnel

Patron	<i>Lt Gen Sir Mark Mans KCB CBE DL</i>
President	<i>Col Andrew King</i>
Chairman	<i>Tim Russell</i>
Vice-Chairman	<i>Vacant</i>
Treasurer	<i>Brian C N Soffe</i>
MSO	<i>Christopher Bolton</i>
Membership Council Rep	<i>Vacant</i>
Area Manager SW	<i>Jim France</i>
CFR – Manager SW	<i>Claire Peppiatt</i>
CFR – Hampshire North	<i>Jim Parker</i>
CFR – Hampshire South	<i>Sarah Ferris</i>
PAO Coordinator – North	<i>Jacki Gatfield</i>
PAO Coordinator – South	<i>Pat Prior MBE</i>