



We Will Remember Them

To all who have paraded for the last time

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

Over 1000 Branches have signed up for the Great Pilgrimage 90 event in August, all those Branches should have received a letter from the organisers to arrange for a special poppy Wreath to be ordered from the Poppy Village. Branches are requested to return the order form ASAP so the correct number of Wreaths can be produced, if you have signed up and not received the notification then please contact the Poppy Village,



via PAO's to get you order placed, only those that have registered and paid for GP90 are eligible to order the GP90 Wreath and all others will be rejected.

RBL Membership

The RBL Membership database has been migrated to a new system and should be back up and running to accept changes and new members, so if you have been having problems then it should have cleared and you can contact the national number or try self-service site once again.

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.

Branch News

Southampton

A lifelong pacifist, Benjamin Britten was asked to compose the War Requiem for the consecration of the rebuilt Coventry Cathedral after its destruction in World War II.

The work weaves together the Latin Mass text of a traditional requiem with the devastating war poetry of Wilfred Owen to produce a powerful denunciation of the wickedness of war and a warning to future generations of the senselessness of taking up arms against one's fellow man. 2018 marks the centenary of the end of World War I and given its subject matter, this timeless message of peace gives us all the opportunity to acknowledge all those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Basingstoke Choral Society is delighted to be joined by **Southampton Philharmonic Choir** and the **City of Southampton Orchestra** for this performance.

The how is at the Anvil, Basingstoke on 9th June, Tickets from £15 more information from:

www.anvilarts.org.uk/whats-on/basingstoke-choral-society-and-southampton-philharmonic-choir

Kingsclere

Since the March edition of The Link, the Kingsclere Branch has been busy.

Final planning for our open day on Saturday, the 07th April is well underway with confirmed attendance from the Mayor of Basingstoke and Dean, WW2 vehicles, the Corps of Drums from Basingstoke, kid's treasure hunt, Hampshire RBL Bikers, face painting and all the usual fete stands and stalls. The star "super-raffle" prize is two tickets donated by Lord Webber for the West End version of The Phantom of The Opera.

All are welcome and any support from local branches would be appreciated at our first event for 2018.

A number of us gathered around the village memorial on the 21st March 18 to support the relatives of Albert Povey; a villager who joined the Hampshire Regiment and was Killed in Action on the Western Front in 1918.



The Povey Memorial Service, 21st March 2018



The Branch intends to expand on this idea and each month for the rest of the year and lay a wreath and read out the names of those villagers who gave the ultimate sacrifice on the coinciding month during the war.....this maybe something other Hampshire Branches may like to take up.

Our Silent Solider has made his first appurtenance of the year outside The Crown pub and other



locations are being considered for the rest of the year.

**Kingsclere RBL
Silent Solider
outside The
Crown pub**

We have our first away day of the year planned for the 28th April, where we will visit Fort Nelson and have a tour of the site and the chance to view the ceramic poppies. This is a free event and looks exciting. An away day to Bovington Tank Museum is being considered for May.

As we don't have our own club house, we recognised the continued support that we receive from The Crown pub here in the village, which is at the heart of the community. Their willingness to lean in and help us out is the key to our branch's success and this was recognised by presenting them with a certificate of appreciation following the March meeting.

Planning is well underway to support the Kingsclere Parish Council's to commemorate the WW1 centenary and thoughts are already being put to ensure the 2018 Remembrance Day is appropriate and a day to remember.

Petersfield



Petersfield RBL have just returned from a visit to The Ardennes, Belgium; location of the Battle of the Bulge December 1944 to January 1945. We were based in Liege and went out daily visiting various battlefields, cemeteries and museums and viewing these from Allied and German perspectives with the aid of a very informative Belgian guide. Locations included World War 1 sites as well as the Battle of the Bulge which basically was the turning point of World War 2 as Germany had exhausted its resources. On the return to UK we stopped at two cemeteries to lay



wreaths - at Hautrage Military Cemetery, Hainaut in memory of L/Cpl Herbert Herriot and at Duisans British Cemetery, Etrun, Pas de Calais in memory of Pte Alfred Cudmer - both enlisted at Petersfield in WW1. A short Service of Remembrance was led by our Chaplain - Matt, at both locations.

Lovedean & Horndean with the HMS Exeter Association

Captain Walter Napier Thomason Beckett MVO DSC RN, captain HMS Exeter 1940-1941
Captain Beckett was the Captain of HMS Exeter during the repairs and refit after the 'Battle of the River Plate' whilst in Devonport Dockyard. Sadly, Captain Beckett passed away in Hospital on the 10th March 1941, which was the same day that HMS Exeter was re-commissioned before sailing to the Far East.

On the 10th March 2017, the 76th Anniversary of his death, I visited the grave of Captain Beckett to lay a HMS Exeter wreath on behalf of the HMS Exeter Association. He is buried in a Family Grave in Warblington Cemetery, near Emsworth, Hampshire. However, when I arrived at the graveside I was saddened to see the situation. The Memorial Cross had been lowered due to 'health and safety' reasons and there were ant hills and many weeds covering the grave. I secured the Poppy Wreath to the Memorial Cross but wanted to see the grave restored back to how it should be.



The sad sight in 2017 of the Family Grave that contains Captain Beckett.

Having made contact with many people to see what could be done to refit the Memorial Cross there was then a stroke of luck when I was able to make contact with Captain Beckett's Daughter, Rowan who lives in Queensland, Australia. I was then proud to become the link between Captain Beckett's Family and the Stonemason. With the Memorial Cross and grave tidy, I then had the honour to arrange a Memorial Service for Captain Beckett on Saturday 10th March 2018, which was the 77th Anniversary of his passing.



The 'Last Post' sounds, The HMS Exeter Association Standard 'Dip's, the HMS Exeter Association President, Rear Admiral Paul Bennett and myself salute as we jointly pay tribute to Captain Beckett on the 10th March 2018.

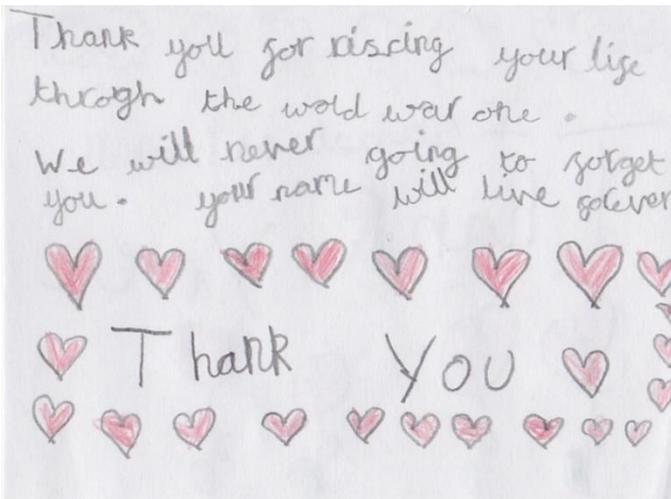
After the silent tribute a HMS Exeter Wreath was laid onto the grave by Rear Admiral Paul Bennett the Association President on behalf of the Association. Then, two 'Poppy Crosses' on behalf of Captain Beckett's Daughter, Rowan were placed. One Cross to the Memory of her Father, Captain Beckett and one to the Memory of her Mother, Gladys Beckett, who died in 1964, for 'Mothering Sunday' the following day. Finally, Captain Beckett's favourite prayer was read to complete the Service.

The congregation in attendance (in the rain) for the Memorial Service numbered about twenty, which included the Association President and Standard Bearer. There was also other representation from the HMS Exeter Association. The remainder were Members of the Royal British Legion Riders Branch who rode on their motorbikes to the event in the rain. Many of the Riders had served in the Royal Navy and they have been monitoring my progress with regard to this project from the start and given me support. Overall, I feel proud to have helped to achieve the restoration of the grave; however, I would like readers to understand the very, very important part that Captain Beckett played in the history of HMS Exeter. He tends to be the 'Forgotten Man' between the two significant Battles but his input was most important and should be fully recognised.

Peter Cox.

Bordon & District

The Bordon & District Branch asked the local schools to produce an epitaph for our GP90 Wreath, they were given the size and a brief that it should contain a picture and a message that showed remembrance for WW1. We initially were looking for just one winner, but Bordon Infant School took up the challenge and sent entry's from all 80 year 2's pupils to select from. We spend 3 months whittling the entries down, but even then, we had to ask for external assistance as there were so many good ones. We finally decided that just one winner was not enough, and we gave prizes to two young ladies from Year two of Bordon Infant School.



The Branch Chairman, Tom Ferguson, Secretary, Darron Back & Standard Bearer, Chalky White visited the school to present Branch certificates to the two young ladies and the school for taking the time to enter the competition, they were also awarded £10 book tokens, and a selection of poppy merchandise, and all Year 2's received a Poppy Reflector as thanks.

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>

Poppy Trademark

We are asking you all to take note of any instances of fundraising activities using our Poppy Logo or other TRBL branding materials.

Our name, corporate logo and poppy are all legally protected trademarks and should not be used without permission. We have a duty as representatives of The Royal British Legion to make sure they are used correctly to the benefit of the organisation. They are at the core of the Legion's most valuable assets and have both an emotional and commercial value that we must protect in the long-term. We can all support and strengthen the brand by understanding and respecting its value and importance and making sure only those entitled to using it are doing so, in the correct way.

The Royal British Legion will take action against companies or individuals who are deemed to infringing its trademark by commercially benefiting from it.

Any person(s) or organisations wishing to raise funds for The Royal British Legion or The Poppy Appeal are to be encouraged to do so in the correct way - which may in some instances mean applying to us for a commercial partnership agreement. Using our branding to fundraise for any other purpose is an infringement of our rights. Please call the contact centre on 0800 802 8080 regarding licensed use of our property or to report any infringements.

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**

Lymington – Lymington Drill Hall, Bath Road, Lymington, **SO41 3RU**

Fleet – Old NAAFI Building, Quetta Park, Church Crookham, Fleet, GU52 8TG

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:
1400hrs	1930hrs	1900hrs
Apr 8 th	Apr 9 th	Apr 11 th
May 6 th	May 14 th	May 9 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

Please note the change of location for the North of County Standard Bearer training.

The Parade Marshall, Steve Forward can be contacted on 023 8069 3028, or stevemo@stevemo.plus.com or Deputy Parade Marshall, 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

The Angel & The Fallen

This is a concert commemorating the centenary of the First World War, presented by Alistair Stewart, and featuring The Band of The Scots Guards, with Laura Wright, English Youth ballet, St John Singers, the Cathedral Junior & Youth Choirs.

It takes place at Salisbury Cathedral on Saturday 7th July from 19:30hrs, tickets from £15 for more information telephone the box office on 01725 512799 or <https://www.cathedralconcerts.co.uk/> Branch Standard representation is requested, with Standard Bearers receiving a free entry to the concert, with partner. The concert is being performed in aid of the RBL Poppy Appeal.

Golf Pairs 2018

The Hampshire RBL County Pairs tournament returns to The Army Club, Aldershot on Monday 14th May for the 2018 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 the military-rate due to our RBL association so we have an excellent value day again 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. See the attached entry form for more details. Closing date for applications is Friday 4th May.

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.

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>.

FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE

11.11.2018
100 YEARS ON



@sotonremembers
FOR MORE INFO

THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION



Mayflower
Theatre

Events Diary

2018

April

28th – Bovington Mountain Bike
See Attached Poster

June

14th – Golf Pairs – 09:30hrs
The Army Club, Aldershot

June

9th – City of Southampton Orchestra – 19:30hrs
The Anvil, Basingstoke
Tickets: £27, £23, £15
www.anvilarts.org.uk

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 – The Angel & The Fallen Concert – 19:30hrs
Salisbury Cathedral
Box Office: 01725 215799

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

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

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>Bob Bartlett</i>
Treasurer	<i>Brian C N Soffe</i>
MSO	<i>Christopher Bolton</i>
Membership Council Rep	<i>Gerry Nunn</i>
Area Manager SW	<i>Jim France</i>
Training Officer	<i>Mike Davies</i>
Branch Support – North	<i>Jacki Gatfield</i>
Branch Support - South	<i>Andy Knight</i>
Youth Officer	<i>Vacant</i>
Committee Member	<i>Brian Mansi</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>
Communications Support	<i>Avril Mitchell</i>
Hampshire Link	<i>Darron Back</i>

Community Support from The Royal British Legion

If you are serving, have served or are the dependent or carer of someone who has served in the UK's Armed Forces, then you are eligible for our help.

Our Area Community Support Team are here to help. We are part of the Legion's extensive Poppy Support services.

We can offer financial aid in an urgent crisis, help homeless ex-Service people get back on their feet, advise on compensation claims, offer careers advice for those looking to make a fresh start after leaving the Forces, arrange home or hospital visits and much more, including:

- War pensions and compensation claims
- Inquest advice
- Benevolent / welfare help
- Benefits and money advice
- Independent living
- Care homes
- Poppy Breaks, Family Holiday Breaks and Adventure Breaks

For assistance, get in touch with us via one of the following:

- Our telephone helpline is open 9am - 8pm, 7 days a week. Call 0808 802 8080 (free from UK landlines and main mobile networks).
- Pop in and see us at our new Pop-In Centre in Southampton to chat to one of our Advice & Information officers. Located at 104 Above Bar Street, close to car parks, bus stops and the train station, we are open 10am - 4pm, Mon-Fri.
- You can also use our online: support.britishlegion.org.uk to find information you need.

Independent Living Advice Service

The Royal British Legion's Independent Living Service covers England, Wales and Northern Ireland. We offer beneficiaries a high quality, friendly and professional service to live safe and well at home. The Independent Living Service comprises of two services; the **Independent Living Advice Service** and the **Legion Handy Van Service**.

Call our friendly contact centre on: 0808 802 8080. Open 8am-8pm 7 days a week.

Pop-In Centres

Visit one of our pop in centres:

<http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-support/the-legionnear-you/>

Admiral Nurses

Admiral Nurses can offer specialist support, information and advice to the carers of people with dementia. Call 02382 025787.

Free Will-Writing service

Have you made a will? To say thank you for their loyalty to the charity, members, supporters and employees are invited to make a will free of charge through the Legion's membership of the National Free Wills Network.

If you are interested in the no-strings-attached service, email freewills@britishlegion.org.uk with your name and address or telephone the Legion's Legacy Coordinator Charlotte Forristal on 0203 053 7087