



We Will Remember Them

To all those that we have lost in 2018

Our sincere condolences to family and friends

National News

Veterans Strategy

To coincide with Armistice 100, the UK Government published a new Veterans Strategy, outlining the principles and aims that will guide government policy in support of veterans and their families over the next ten years. The strategy, entitled *Strategy for our Veterans*, is UK-wide initiative endorsed by the UK, Scottish and Welsh governments, although it will be for each nation to determine how they will deliver on the strategy's core themes. Whilst UK veterans living in the UK – including Regular and Reservist veterans, their families and the bereaved – are all within the scope of the strategy, veterans of HM Armed Forces living overseas are not.

Alongside the strategy, the UK Government launched a consultation on how best to deliver it. The consultation will cover England and Northern Ireland, along with reserved UK-wide issues. Separate consultation arrangements are being made by the Scottish and Welsh governments on areas that are devolved. The Legion is in the process of drafting an official response to the consultation, which closes on 21 February 2019, and the Public Affairs and Public Policy team is working with colleagues in Poppyscotland and the Wales Area Team to feed into the devolved consultations.

Given that the consultation period is rather short, it will unfortunately not be possible for the Legion to conduct a comprehensive consultation exercise with its staff, members and beneficiaries. We will, however, endeavour to capture as many people's thoughts as is reasonably possible, for instance through an online platform. We will therefore be encouraging all members, staff and supporters to

submit their own comments to the Veterans Strategy consultation, which can be viewed on the Government's website:

(www.gov.uk/government/consultations/strategy-for-our-veterans-uk-government-consultation-paper). We plan to raise awareness of both the strategy and the consultation in the Membership e-newsletter, the staff intranet, and Legion social media channels.

We hope to be in touch with you all again shortly with a briefing note outlining the Legion's main lines on the Strategy's core themes. Whilst all submissions from individuals should be in a personal capacity rather than that of the Legion, if you do intend to respond yourself and are able to incorporate the themes of the Legion's lines, we would be grateful.

If you have any questions about the strategy or the consultation, please email Laura Pett, Head of Campaigns at lpett@britishlegion.org.uk

Many thanks

Karolina Brzeska
Head of Membership Operations

County News

Hampshire County Conference 2019

The conference is being held at the Jubilee Hall, Bishops Waltham on Saturday 19th January from 10.30 am.

The Agenda and reports for Conference have been sent by post to all branch secretaries, for the attention of ALL Branch members.

Included are

- the Nominations,
- the proposed Hampshire County Plan 2019-2022,
- the County Awards,
- Conference Standing Orders,
- details of lunch arrangements.
- There are 7 vacancies for County Committee members and the County Committee are very keen to fill all of them.

We are privileged to have the National Chairman, Terry Whittles attending conference and talking to us.

The Branch delegate will represent the views of the Branch members at conference, when the elections are held and during debate on any motion or Royal Charter amendment.

Branches who do not comply with Rule 1 of the Royal Charter (Voting Branches) cannot be represented by a branch delegate at either County or Annual Conference next year.

The County Committee encourages visitors (as well as delegates) to attend conference to hear what goes on and learn more about the Legion in Hampshire.

As last year, during the lunch break from approx. noon, for an hour and a half, the members of the County Committee will be holding information desks to exchange ideas on

- Training,
- Recruiting,
- Social Media,
- Branch Community Support
- General items.

Please come along and air your views so that we may improve our support to the branches in Hampshire.

These above documents may be accessed by all Branch officials on MAP on the Hampshire page in the [County Shared Documents](#) in the County Conference 2019 folder.

Conference Committee - Secretary

Draw Prizes

Branches attending the Conference are requested to donate a small prize for the draw, which is held to defray the Conference expenses.

Branch News

Petersfield

The Petersfield Branch held their annual Christmas dinner on the 13th December 2018 at The Half Moon, Sheet, which was very well attended.

On the day a cheque for over £1600 was presented to the Branch which was the result of a local concert, which puts the Branch's Poppy Appeal close to the £40,000 mark.



The cheque being presented to the Branch



Branch Members at the Dinner



Ian Seager, Terry Lealand & Jeff Williams – The organisers

Poppy Appeal News

There are still some Districts that have not banked their money and there is even more who have not completed their statement of accounts (SOA). If you are one of them and you have an issue, any issue at all please contact me so that we can get this finalised before the New Year. Why we need this document In England and Wales, before we conduct our Poppy Appeal collections, we must obtain permission to do so from every Borough or District Council. In London and Northern Ireland, we need the permission of the Commissioner of Police and the Chief Constable. We hold a Cabinet Office Exemption Certificate in order to carry out House to House collections.

In order to obtain permission to collect we must certify that we will abide by the relevant rules - one of which is that we will report details of the collections and how the money was raised to the Borough or District Council who gave us permission to collect – this must be completed within thirty days of the collection taking place. If we do not meet this deadline we are in breach of our licence and are at risk of not being able to renew our licence in future years. The team at Aylesford look after this process for you but to comply with the legislation we must have the money showing in the Poppy Appeal bank account and the accompanying statement of account showing how the money was raised. The details are then verified by our external Accountants and forwarded to the Borough or District Council who gave us permission to collect.

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: 1400hrs
Lymington: 1930hrs
Fleet: 1900hrs

New dates will be confirmed in the new year

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.

Reginal Standard Bearers Competition

Following discussions with the Membership Council Representative for Somerset & Wiltshire please be advised that the Regional Standard Bearers Competition will be held on Saturday the 16th February 2019.

The event will be held at The Michael Herbert Hall, South Street, Wilton, Near Salisbury, SP2 0JS.

The Michael Herbert Hall is close to Salisbury on the A30 and there is ample free parking on site. Details of timings and catering arrangements for the day will be sent in December 2018.

Notices

I Can Therapy Centre

I Can Therapy Centre - Salto Centre – Andover - Hampshire

Alan Lavelle

info@icantherapycentre.co.uk

Alan advised that within his gymnastics centre - a new therapy centre has been set up for disabled people in Andover Hampshire.

Alan advised that the centre has electrically powered fitness equipment to help people with moving parts of their bodies which do not work.

Alan advised that the centre is being used by people who have had stokes, cerebral palsy, heart attack recovery as well as helping other people with other medical conditions.

Alan would like to be able to let members of the RBL know about this facility in case there is anyone within our membership who need assistance with recovering from medical conditions.

Events Diary

2019

January

5th & 6th – Branch Treasurers Course

Old Basing RBL Club

Hampshire.cto@rbl.community

12th & 13th Branch Management Course

Old Basing RBL Club

Hampshire.cto@rbl.community

19th – County Conference

Jubilee Hall, Bishops Waltham

Starting at 10:30, please arrive by 10am.

Please if you have any events in the pipeline then contact the Hampshire Link Newsletter and we can advertise the event for you.

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 28th 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>Robert 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>Craig Spence</i>
Training Officer	<i>Mike Davis</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 BEM QVRM</i>
Communications Support	<i>Avril Mitchell</i>
Hampshire Link	<i>Darron Back</i>