



We Will Remember Them

Mr Alan Newman, Mr Richard Young & Mr Vincent Bowers - Southampton
Mr Patrick Barton – Bordon & District, Mr Alan Turvey – Old Basing
Mr Geoff Godbold – Aldershot, Mr Anthony Crisp – Lovedean & Horndean
Mrs Joan Fanshawe – Hambledon, Mr Cecil Osman – Totton & Eling
Mrs M Chapman – Farnborough, Mr Christopher Fradd – New Milton
Prof Frederick Hibbert - Droxford, Lt Col A Bray Liphook
Lt Col KA Mean OBE DFM - Wallops
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

D-Day Veterans

As you are all aware this year we will commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the D-Day landings. As part of this The Royal British Legion is chartering a cruise ship which will take any veterans who took part in the Normandy offensive and a carer of their choice, free of charge to the D-

day commemorations being held on both sides of the Channel. This trip takes place from Monday 3rd June 2019 – Sunday 9th June 2019. I have attached a link to the information page on the Legion website and there you will find more details and an application form.

I know that some of you will be aware of or indeed know veterans who will be eligible to attend, could I ask you please make them aware of the trip. The closing date for applications is Monday 4th February 2019, so not long away.

The link is:

<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/community/d-day-75/>

Craig Spence
Area Manager Dorset, Hampshire & IoW

County News

Area Office

The Royal British Legion Area office located in Southampton is currently re-naming its meeting rooms, utilising a D-Day theme.

This is very poignant as 2019 see's us commemorate the 75th anniversary of the D-day landings, with the main UK focus on Southsea, Hampshire, for events in June.

The Area Manager would like us to name the meeting rooms soon; with the proposal that the Conference room is named "Overlord" with each of the four interview rooms being named after a local veteran who took part in D-Day. Each room would include a plaque inside the room with a photo and description of who the room is named after and what they did on D-day.

So – does your Branch currently have an RBL member who is a D-Day veteran?

If so, please could you share the details with the County MSO so we can put together a shortlist of potential local veterans.

MAP & Office 365

Following my article last year relating to MAP's and Office 365, I think it would be pertinent to again bring this to the attention of the membership. Take up of my offer to visit individual branches to hold a workshop on this

was very disappointing, but I now sense that there is a wider appreciation of the background and advantages of embracing this initiative.

A little information regarding the reasons for introducing this. With the implementation of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) in May last year all Branches should consider how they protect the data of their members as failure to comply with GDPR can result in reputation damage to the RBL and financial penalties. One way to ensure that Branch Officers do not fall foul of these regulations is by using the Membership Administration Portal (MAP). This portal is a quick way to access membership listings, communicate with other Branch officials and store files. The Membership Administration Portal (MAP) also ensures smooth transition from retiring Branch officers and those succeeding them as the e-mails issued relate to the role and not individual persons thus enabling the new officers to follow any e-mail trails and discussions held relating to them.

The process to follow to obtain access to MAP's is as follows. All relevant Branch Officers and committee member can obtain E-mail and log in details from the Membership Support Officer (MSO) Chris Bolton at Cbolton@britishlegion.org.uk or by ringing the Area Office on 0808 802 8080. Once the log-in details are obtained the lay-out of the MAP is simple with a large amount of information available relating to a wide range of topics including quick start guides of how to navigate the portal as well as application forms for a number of membership related areas. However, if any branch should experience difficulties when accessing and implementing this portal then they should contact the MSO or me at Hampshire.cto@rbl.community. I am still willing to visit branches to provide support by giving briefings on the use of MAP's and the associate software. Prior to contacting me branches should first obtain their log-in details, consider suitable dates and identify a suitable location which has Wi-Fi. I will then endeavour to accommodate branches' requirements.

Branch Officers are strongly encouraged to embrace this important development. Failure to do so may lead to branches missing out on important information issued from Haig House as key documents such as the Royal Charter and Membership Handbook are ALWAYS updated on

MAP's prior to being released and circulated by other means.

Mike Davis – County Training Officer

Training in Hampshire

I am taking this opportunity to brief you on proposed training in Hampshire throughout 2019. I submitted my request for training supported by Membership Training at the beginning of December 2018 and the allocated dates are gradually coming through. It is my intention to try to train a few members to help with training in the county, thus easing the reliance on National Trainers as there are only two for more than 50 counties and districts including those out with the UK. With this in mind I can inform you that there is a County Training Officer course 22-24 March and a County Recruitment Officers Course On 1-2 June, both courses in London. Attendance of these courses is a requirement in order to provide training in RBL. Anyone interested in attending these courses should contact me.

In continuation of the initiative started last year to provide much needed Branch Management and Branch Treasurer courses I have requested one of each. The Branch Treasurer course will be held 7-8m September; I have not yet received any dates for the Branch Management course; I will inform the membership as soon as I have details.

I have managed to secure an Independent Examiners course which is critical as we only have one qualified in the county. The course will be 11-12 May. Please be informed that it is a requirement that delegates have previously attended a RBL Branch Treasurer course. The IE course ends in a written exam which delegates shall pass in order to perform duties as an IE.

I have also requested a County Management course which will be held 23-24 February. This is an extension of the Branch Management course aimed at existing County Committee members and those who are considering taking up duties on the County Committee in the near future.

I am awaiting confirmation that we can have two LOMAS within the county. This is always problematic as there has to be a member of the finance department available to address any issues that arise. I will disseminate information relating to these courses as it becomes available.

Finally I would like to inform you that I am currently developing a one day "mini" Branch Management course to be rolled out throughout the county. The idea is to have a course aimed at Branch Committee members who have not attended the Branch Management course or who cannot spend two days on the course. This course will endeavour to explain the role of branch committee members and give the required information to conform to RBL requirements. Once I have obtained permission to hold these courses I will approach the membership to gauge how many courses are required and where the most logical locations to hold them.

Just a final reminder of my offer to hold MAP's and Office 365 workshops for branch officer and committee members in individual branches. Please refer to the other article I have written regarding this.

Should members have any questions or requests for training then please contact me at Hampshire.cto@rbl.community.

Mike Davis – County Training Officer

County Conference

The minutes of the 2019 County Conference are available on MAP for those branches with access. The national Chairman's address is also included, you will find the information in the 2019 Conference folder – Under County Shared Documents. If your Branch does not have access to MAP, then please contact the County MSO

A few of the Awards pictures are produced below.





Branch News

Bordon & District

The Bordon & District Branch held its annual Dinner dance at the Masonic Hall in Bordon on the 12th January to say thank you to all its members, families and friends for supporting the Branch for the past year, over 100 people come along for a 4-course dinner, raffle and disco. Catherine, the entertainments representative along with her band of helpers put on an excellent event once again that was enjoyed by all those attending.



Bordon Branch members sitting down to dinner.
(Photo by Cheryl Back)

Petersfield

The Petersfield Poppy Appeal has now topped the £40k mark and still rising. The Branch has been in contact with the local papers to inform them that the Branch is collecting all year round, and if anyone wishes to raise funds in the Petersfield area to get in contact.

The Branch has also been carrying out a recruitment drive, and the Branch is making everyone aware that a military background is not a prerequisite for membership, in fact the Branch Secretary managed to sign his own brother up for membership and he's only ever worn the postman's uniform.



David & Kristina Lloyd in Waitrose
(Photo by Ann Saunders)

Poppy Appeal News

National: £42,099,583-48

Hampshire North: £759,882-48

Hampshire South: £868,402-29

As at 28th Jan 2019

The Hampshire North gazebo is currently held in Bordon with the Branch Secretary who can be contacted at

bordondistrict.secretary@rbl.community or on 07758881961 if anyone in the North of the County have the option of using, it's on a 1st come 1st served bases, (CFR has 1st refusal) so if would like to book it then please get in contact as it provides a good visual sign of the poppy Appeal.

PAO Seminar

This years PAO Seminar will take place on Friday 28th June, at the Southwick & Widley D-Day Memorial Hall, Priory Road, Southwick, Fareham, PO17 6ED

Please arrive no earlier than 10am, for a 10:30 start, and hoping to finish around 2.30pm, refreshments and lunch will be provided, if you have specific dietary requirements then please let CFR (N) know.

Please could PAO`s & deputies please contact CFR (N) by 3rd June if you would like to attend:
Email: eparker@britishlegion.org.uk

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
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>
<i>14:00</i>	<i>19:30</i>	<i>19:00</i>
<i>10th March</i>	<i>11th March</i>	<i>14th March</i>
<i>14th April</i>	<i>15th April</i>	<i>17th April</i>
<i>12th May</i>	<i>13th May</i>	<i>15th May</i>
<i>9th June</i>	<i>10th June</i>	<i>12th June</i>
<i>21st July</i>	<i>15th July</i>	<i>17th July</i>
<i>N/A</i>	<i>12th Aug</i>	<i>14th Aug</i>
<i>8th Sept</i>	<i>9th Sept</i>	<i>11th Sept</i>
<i>20th Oct</i>	<i>14th Oct</i>	<i>16th Oct</i>

Each session is an hour long

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.

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.

ANZEC Service

On Sunday 28th April 2019, Staffordshire County RBL are organising the annual ANZEC Day Commemorative Service at the Commonwealth Military Cemetery, Camp Road, Brocton, Cannock Chase, at 1030hrs, please arrive no later than 1015hrs.

Attached to the newsletter is a return for Stafford County RBL that should be return ASAP to allow the County team to make the necessary arrangements.

D-Day Commemorations

On the 6th June 1944 Allied Forces invaded Normandy in Operation Overlord, codenamed Operation Neptune, it was the largest seaborne invasion in history. The operation began the liberation of German-Occupied France (and later Europe) and laid the foundation of the Allied victory on the Western front.

This year marks 75 years since the invasion and in June this year the RBL will be holding an event in Portsmouth (TBC) – more details to follow.

Branches are asked if they could think of ideas to commemorate this event in their local areas.

Events Diary

2019

June

6th – D-Day 75

Details to be confirmed

28th – PAO Seminar – 1030hrs

Southwick & Widley D-Day Memorial Hall
PO17 6ED

Email: eparker@britishlegion.org.uk

October

26th – Poppy Appeal launch

November

10th – Remembrance Sunday

11th – Armistice Day

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.popp.HamsphireRBL

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>