



## We Will Remember Them

Mr J Darby & Mr A Pull – *Headley & District*  
Mr B Hole – *Copythorne*, Mr D Vardy – *Totton & Eling*  
Mr A Furness – *Lovedean & Horndean*  
*Our sincere condolences to family and friends*

## County News

### County Training

The Branch Management Course that is being held in Aldershot, will be taking place at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Aldershot Scout's Hut in Manor Park, GU12 4JU, and not the RBL Club as previously advertised. The event is open to all branches, however those interested in attending are asked to contact the Aldershot Branch 01252 325558, 07956 078671 or email [aldershotrbl@hotmail.com](mailto:aldershotrbl@hotmail.com) so that catering can be sorted out.

## Branch News

### Petersfield

The Petersfield Branch held their annual Christmas Dinner at the Half Moon in Sheet on 17<sup>th</sup> December, a goodly feast with plenty of banter and fine company.



### Bordon & District

The Branch has been a bit quiet over the past year, due to a number of illnesses, and having to move residence with the re-development of our small town, however at the December meeting the Branch were presented with a cheque for £1500 from Chalky & Clair White on behalf of "The Battle of Cheriton Project" and "The Sealed Knot" who completed a multi period sponsored walk from Petersfield to Cheriton following the original route the Army of Parliament used, commemorating the 375<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Cheriton in 1644.



Branch Chairman, Barry Farrington receiving cheque from Chalky White (l)



Branch Secretary, Clair, Chalky, Branch Chairman



*Branch members at December meeting*

## 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.

The Parade Marshall, Steve Forward can be contacted on 023 8069 3028, or [stevemo@stevemo.plus.com](mailto:stevemo@stevemo.plus.com) or Deputy Parade Marshall, Dave Graham on 01425 623102 or [davidkarengraham1@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:davidkarengraham1@yahoo.co.uk) for more information.

<b>Eastleigh</b>	<b>Lymington</b>	<b>Fleet</b>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>
<i>14:00</i>	<i>19:30</i>	<i>19:00</i>

*Dates to be confirmed for 2020 soon*

## Notices

### MOD War Detectives

Please help us find relatives of Private Vickers Bell, 11th Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers, s/n 291189. Private Bell was killed on 15 October

1917 near Beselare, Belgium during Passchendaele. Due to the type of DNA we have, we are looking for relatives descended through the female line. We know that Private Bell had three sisters; Hannah, Mary Ann and Jane. The family lived in Newbiggin-by-the-Sea in Northumberland. Please get in contact via email if you have any information:

[DBS-MODWarDetectives@mod.gov.uk](mailto:DBS-MODWarDetectives@mod.gov.uk)

## A Call to Remember

Earlier this year, Paul Capper, Proprietor of Eastleigh's Independent Funeral Directors Ltd, alerted SSAFA Hampshire and others that George Peter Osbourne (known as 'Paul'), a World War 2 Bomber Command veteran had sadly passed aged 96, had no relatives and only 2 close friends attending his funeral. The power of social media then took over with the result being standing room only at the Eastleigh Crematorium for a fitting farewell to a true RAF Hero. On 2 December, SSAFA Hampshire was honoured to be one of the 4 military charities that benefited from the public donations made at the funeral of Paul along with funeral fees, £500 each, in a special presentation evening at The Eastleigh Chandlers Ford and District Branch Veteran's Christmas Party. All 4 charities also received an extremely kind £1,500 donation from the Westerleigh Group, operators of crematoria and cemeteries in the area.

The presentation ceremony centred on tributes and respect towards the hero that was George Peter Osbourne (Paul). And saved for the Nation to enjoy, Paul's historic photograph albums were purchased by Paul Capper and his business partner Pauline Peters - who kindly donated the album to the International Bomber Command Centre (IBCC); Sally Taylor MBE, BBC South Today kindly received the album on behalf of the IBCC. A really special mention must go to Paul Capper and Pauline Peters without whom this story might never have been told. Charities that benefitted from the evening were [Hampshire Branch of SSAFA the Armed Forces charity](#) [RAF Association](#) [The Royal British Legion](#) and the [Southampton-Veterans Centre](#).

The images from the presentation evening are shown and the very special BBC and ITV footage of the crowds attending the funeral and images from the historic photograph album are here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/.../cirzhy.../AAAp2p3pfP565AOtJ3f23gi6a...>

## Events Diary

**2020**

### January

**18<sup>th</sup>** – County Conference of Branches– 10.30am  
Jubilee Hall, Bishops Waltham

**19<sup>th</sup>** – Branch Management Course

2<sup>nd</sup> Aldershot Scout Hut

Manor Park GU12 4JU

*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](http://www.BritishLegion.org.uk)

County Website:

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

Facebook Page

[www.facebook.com/groups/hantscountyrbl/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/hantscountyrbl/)

Facebook - Email

[Hampshire.web@rbl.community](mailto:Hampshire.web@rbl.community)

Poppy Appeal

[www.facebook.com/poppy.HampshireRBL](http://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](mailto:HampshireLink@outlook.com)

Or

Editor – Hampshire Link

15 Champney Close

Whitehill, Bordon

Hampshire

GU35 9DX

*(Please ensure correct postage is paid)*

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>Ges Brown</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>
Recruitment Officer	<i>Pat Prior BEM, QVRM</i>
Branch Support – North	<i>Jacki Gatfield</i>
Branch Support - South	<i>Andy Knight</i>
Youth Officer	<i>Vacant</i>
Committee Members	<i>Brian Mansi &amp; Brian Soffe</i>
CFR – Manager SW	<i>Claire Peppiatt</i>
CFR – Hampshire North	<i>Sarah Farris</i>
CFR – Hampshire South	<i>Vacant</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>