



We Will Remember Them

To all those that have attended their final parade.

Our sincere condolences to family and friends

National News

Royal Charter

You may have been involved in the Royal Charter consultations we conducted in 2017. This resulted in the new, **modernised Charter** being adopted by members at Annual Conference 2018. This revised version, drafted by solicitors specialising in Charity Law, replaces the previous Charter with immediate effect having been approved by The Privy Council.

The Royal Charter is available on our website:
<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/quick-links/the-royal-charter>

Following receipt of members feedback about the Membership Handbook, we've worked with Members to review, modernise and simplify its format. As our Royal Charter changed, we have ensured that our Membership policies have remained consistent. As a result, we are pleased to introduce the "**Membership Management Handbook**", renamed to reflect its purpose, which replaces the previous handbook as of today.

Some of the major changes include:

- Removing repetitions and reducing the number of pages to make it more user friendly
- Modernising the language as asked to do so by Members
- Ensuring that the content remains the same so that to avoid any changes in the way Branches and Members conduct business

The Membership Management Handbook is on Office365, readily available to all Branch Officers in registered Branches:

<https://trbl.sharepoint.com/sites/MembershipResources/Shared%20Documents/Handbooks/Membership%20Management%20Handbook%202019.pdf>

Updated Strategic Review

Following previous correspondence in November, I am writing to update you on the outcome of the proposals to close our four Break Centres and Handy Van Service. The Board of Trustees considered the proposals again following the consultation process with employees, taking into account feedback received through this process and from other stakeholders, and we have made the decision to proceed with closing these services. The charity is creating a new strategy that will ensure the Legion is having the greatest impact, making the most of our resources, and evolving in line with changes in the Armed Forces community. The new direction is being developed to address the changes in the Armed Forces community, as the type of support needed is growing increasingly complex with people requiring help across multiple issues. Since 2016 the charity has seen a 20% increase in people needing basic support with housing, financial issues, mental health and well-being and mobility. In this time, the average expenditure per household through the Legion's Immediate Needs Grants has risen 45% from £900 to £1330. People are coming to us with multiple needs where a holistic approach providing ongoing support is required. We are seeing people at their lowest ebb, at risk of homelessness, and in dire financial situations where they can't afford to feed their families. Ceasing to operate the Break Centres and Handy Van Service will provide £5.8 million annually which will be diverted to address the urgent needs people are coming to us with. By refocusing our resource, the Legion can invest more in on-the-ground, personalised support across our network. The decision to close our Break Centres and Handy Van Service has not been taken lightly, we know these services are well loved and it will ultimately lead to some of

our colleagues leaving the charity. The affected staff have all contributed greatly to our work, they are part of our community, and we are doing all we can to support them in their next steps.

The reprioritised funding will provide increased resource to better personalise support packages, build plans that fit individual needs, bolster care services for older members of the Armed Forces community, and grant fund other organisations who are providing specialist support that the Legion cannot through its existing services.

Service provision in Northern Ireland

We recognise the unique situation in Northern Ireland, both the historic issues and current challenges, which make it difficult for veterans to find the support they need. In addition, there are significantly lower levels of support from the state in that area.

To meet these challenges, we have established a newly formed Northern Ireland Advisory Committee to continue reviewing how best to meet beneficiary needs in the area and coordinate with the re-convened Northern Ireland Assembly and new Veterans Commissioner.

The decision has been made to stop providing break services across the Legion, however, we will temporarily utilise Bennet House for use by the Poppy Club, local community and other charities, to help continue supporting beneficiaries in the area.

The building will be available for non-residential activity until July 2020, when its use will be re-evaluated as part of service provision in Northern Ireland, which will be informed by existing research and a new report on veterans' needs that is due to be published in June by Queen's University, Belfast.

For nearly 100 years the Legion has supported the British Armed Forces community, providing practical help and campaigning on their behalf. Throughout our history the Legion has responded to the changes in our community and the landscape the charity operates within. As we look ahead to our centenary, the Legion will once again adapt to meet the needs of the people we support and ensure we are fit for purpose for the next 100 years.

If you have any questions about the Legion's strategy work please email

strategy@britishlegion.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

Una Cleminson

National Chairman, Board of Trustees

County News

County Training

Following the success of the one-day Branch Management courses we have held, both at the end of last year and the beginning of this, we will be holding more of these courses throughout 2020. As this is a course, we can hold locally in the county there is no reason why we cannot run courses at individual branches provided there are enough delegates. I have not set any dates at present as I am waiting for Membership Training department to update the course material to include the revised Royal Charter and Membership Management Handbook. If you are interested in one of these courses then please get in touch.

Further to the above I will also be arranging a series of one day Branch Treasurer Courses in the first half of 2020. This course is suitable for both current and prospective Branch Treasurers as well as any branch committee member who wishes to learn more about their roles and responsibilities regarding management of branch funds. This should also be considered as a refresher for those who received their training some time ago. Dates will be set when the course material is updated. Again, this is a locally run course so if your branch committee feel it would be beneficial then we can run the course at individual branches.

For those Branch Treasurers who would like to do the two-day course, I will be arranging two, one in the north of the county and one in the south, sometime in the first half of 2020. I am aware that Berkshire will be running a two-day Branch Treasurers course early in 2020 and I am very willing to put forward candidates from Hampshire who would take this course. To my knowledge it will be held just south of Reading so it is very convenient especially for those in the north of the county. Get in touch for more information and to express an interest.

Finally, I would remind branches of my offer to hold MAP's and Office 365 workshops for branch officer and committee members in individual branches. I have held a number of these workshops the feed-back being that they have proved very useful. If your branch is interested in this then please contact me at

Hampshire.cto@rbl.community

Mike Davis

Hampshire CTO

Branch News

Totton & Eling

The Totton and Eling Poppy Appeal has raised almost £23,000 since 1st October and we are busy planning this year's events. We are holding a Spring Quiz in the Totton Conservative Club on Monday 2nd March starting at 7.30pm and welcome Members and guests from Totton and other Branches.

We continue to hold our monthly Community Drop-in on the last Thursday of each month in Totton and Eling Community Centre from 10am to midday, and will also have a Poppy Appeal stall at local car boot sales. On Friday 8th May we will be holding a VE Day 75th Anniversary event in the Empire Hall, Totton to raise funds for the Poppy Appeal.

If you would like more details of any of our events please contact Susan Compton, Branch Secretary and PAO on 023 8087 3143 or email poppy@compark.co.uk

Ringwood & District

Ringwood and District Branch will be holding its Spring Quiz on Friday 3rd April 2020 at the Ringwood Conservative Club, 7.15 for 7.30. Tickets £8.00 each including buffet, with team max of 4.

For more information and to book a place, contact Ges on 01425 673525, ringwood.treasurer@rbl.community

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 or Deputy Parade Marshall, Dave Graham on 01425 623102 or davidkarengraham1@yahoo.co.uk for more information.

Eastleigh

Sunday

14:00

Lymington

Monday

19:30

Fleet

Wednesday

19:00

Dates to be confirmed for 2020 soon

Poppy Appeal

Vacancies

We have opportunities for two new FTC events assistant roles in the Mass Events team. A chance for enthusiastic individuals to have an introduction to the events world, focussing on local marketing and engagement leading up to Poppy Quest events in July. Could you help us share these two roles within your local networks?

Based in London or Aylesford

https://ce0286li.webitrent.com/ce0286li_webrecruitment/wrd/run/ETREC107GF.open?VACANCY_ID%3d8426007iOx%1B&WVID=36108204YQ&LANG=USA

Based in Southampton

https://ce0286li.webitrent.com/ce0286li_webrecruitment/wrd/run/ETREC107GF.open?VACANCY_ID%3d4125987iKm%1B&WVID=36108204YQ&LANG=USA

Information

Concert Band

The Farnborough Concert Band ito jon them for a Concert Band Workshop on Sunday 15th March at Frimley Community Centre (GU16 9AR) from 10am until 4pm.

A full day intermediate workshop of film music pieces led by Mark Atkins. (Grade 4 standard & above)

Booking is essential – for more information and to book a place please email :

workshop@farnboroughconcertband.org





**CELEBRATION of VE-DAY
in Aid of the Poppy Appeal
on Friday May 8th (Bank Holiday)
in the Empire Hall**

Please make a note in your diary!

**All day event including Music, Stalls,
Entertainers, Songs and 1940s
themed evening event.**

**More information will become
available soon.**

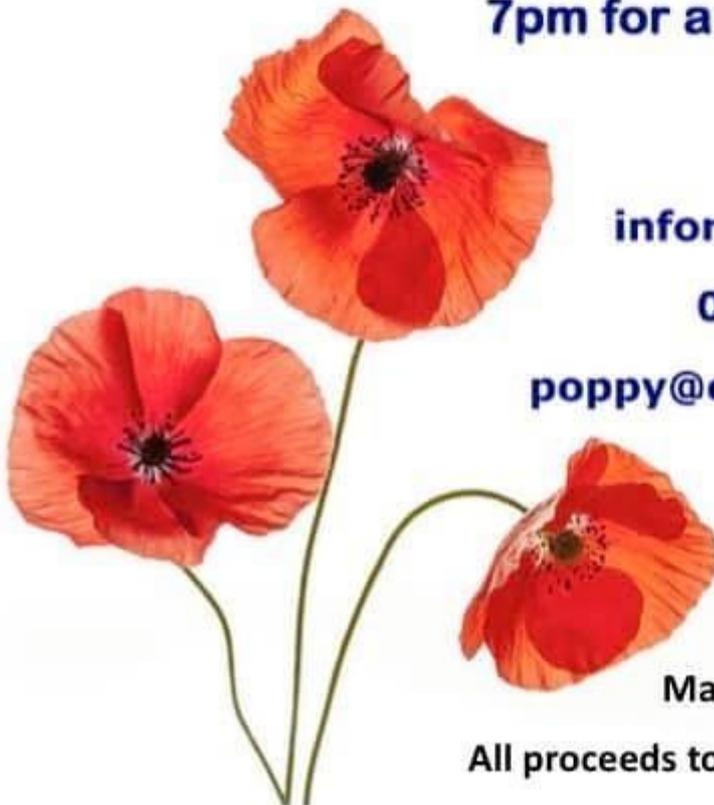


Totton and Eling Royal British Legion

Spring Quiz

in aid of the Poppy Appeal

**In the Totton Conservative Club
Monday 2nd March
7pm for a 7.30pm start**



**For more
information please
contact
023 8087 3143
or email
poppy@compark.co.uk**

£1 per person

Maximum 6 in a team

All proceeds to the Poppy Appeal

Events Diary

2020

March

2nd – Spring Quiz

Totton Conservative Club

See Poster for details

15th – Concert Band Workshop

Frimley Community Centre

Email: workshop@farnboroughconcertband.org

Booking essential

April

3rd – Spring Quiz

Ringwood & District

Ringwood Conservative Club

Ringwood.treasurer@rbl.community

May

8th-10th - VE75 Commemorations

8th – VE-Day Celebrations

Totton & Eling

See poster for details

August

15th – VJ75 Commemorations

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/

Facebook - Email

Hampshire.web@rbl.community

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)

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 & 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>