



We Will Remember Them

Mrs P. Tindall – *President Women`s Section, Sutton Scotney*

Our sincere condolences to family and friends

National News

Single Membership Fee

The Membership team have been working hard on key membership projects even though the offices remain closed. I'm very happy to inform you that we are now ready to implement the single membership fee rule, meaning that members who belong to more than one branch do not need to pay any additional membership fees.

In order to regulate governance rights of members who want to belong to more than one branch, Board of Trustees and the Membership Council have agreed to introduce the following rules:

- 1. The maximum amount of branches a member can belong to at the same time is four.*
- 2. An individual, who is a member of multiple branches, is not allowed to be nominated as a Conference delegate by more than one branch.*

We have also launched a new facility where members who have cancelled or not renewed their membership in the past do not need to submit a new application – our Membership Helpline agents are now able to instantly reinstate their previous membership. Additionally, members who are no longer eligible can easily cancel their Gift Aid online via the self-service portal.

These are great improvements to our services, but this particular project isn't over yet. We are continuing to develop new systems and improve existing processes to ensure our data is correct and up to date with the aim to ensure that members receive the best service. Please share this message with your branches.

Thank you for your continued support and stay safe.

Jason Coward

Trustee and Chairman of the Membership Council

RBL Centenary

As you are all very well aware the Centenary of The Royal British Legion will take place in 2021. This is a milestone which I expect you may already be planning to celebrate within your branches. To help you with your preparations we have introduced the attached Branch Guidance on the activities planned and to support generating new and interesting ways to engage your communities.

Additionally, we will also be marking the Centenary with events at a National level. We will be working closely with the Membership Council on how we can manage membership participation in these events. Because we are planning for the Centenary during these uncertain times it may be necessary for our plans and activities to evolve to adhere to any measures that are put in place due to the Covid-19 pandemic. While we hope that conditions will have improved to enable our plans to go ahead, these may change. Please bear with us, we will keep you informed.

To keep in touch with the latest updates on our national Centenary activity, to seek advice on your local plans or to share your ideas with other branches, please join our [Legion 100 Yammer Group](#).

We look forward to hearing about your Legion 100 activity in the near future.

Kind regards and stay safe,
Sandra Fruish MBA MSc
Assistant Director Membership

Remembrance 2020

A few weeks ago, we approached our Membership Council and County Chairs for their views on how we take our Remembrance-tide and Poppy Appeal activities forward in the current context that we are now living in. We wanted to explore the options of potentially widening our Remembrance position to specifically take in the work of the essential workers in the fight against coronavirus; the potential of partnering with other organisations. We also took legal advice as well as consulting with the Charity Commission.

Given all of the feedback we agreed that continuing with our normal approach to Remembrance is the best way to proceed. We will of course acknowledge as much as possible and where appropriate the context that we are living in but our approach to all of our activities will still carry the primary messages of supporting our Armed Forces Community and contribution that they have made in 2020 and challenges faced by our beneficiaries.

To help us prepare for this Remembrance, we have created some useful resources with guidelines and the Legion's position on remembrance parades, available in the [Remembrance 2020](#) folder on the Membership Administration Portal. Please read them carefully. The letter signed by the Director General can be used when speaking to the local authorities about organising remembrance parades.

We hope that you will help us make this Remembrance-tide a meaningful and unforgettable experience.

Regards,

Sandra Fruish MBA MSc

Assistant Director Membership

**IMPORTANT - THIS INFORMATION PERTAINS ONLY TO WHEN LOCKDOWN HAS BEEN LIFTED AND THE LEGION CHANGES ITS CURRENT POSITION ON BRANCH AND REMEMBRANCE ACTIVITY.
NO REMEMBRANCE PARADES ARE CURRENTLY TO BE UNDERTAKEN**

I have been asked by a few branches to provide clarity on the Legion's position in regard to the

organisation of Remembrance Parades in preparation for Remembrancetide.

We know that branches and members are proud to play an active part in Remembrance services and parades every year and are only too happy to support local authorities in their planning for such important community events. Whilst the Legion often plays an active support role, Remembrance events are a civic matter and most local authorities show a great deal of support for Remembrance. However, every year a number of Legion branches report they are being asked to organise and/or bear the costs of road closures and policing.

This brings with it a range of responsibilities and liabilities which could result in significant charitable funds being diverted away from our vital welfare work. As a result, whilst Legion branches, or counties or districts, may support councils in their planning of local Remembrance services and parade routes, they **may not** assume responsibility for the design and delivery of parade routes, especially the organisation and deployment of Temporary Traffic Management Orders (TTMOs) or the contracting of traffic management services, where the liabilities can run into millions of pounds.

Where a branch, or county or district, has to be the Event organiser (because the Civic Authorities refuse) they may take this role **but there can be no street Parade, no road closure and, therefore, no need for a Temporary Traffic Management Operation (TTMO)** unless this aspect of the event is owned by a Civic Authority. Whilst the branch can be involved in determining a Parade route, it should not itself contract with a third party and may not take responsibility for the design, planning and deployment of a TTMO. On the day of the Parade, the RBL and its volunteers must not engage in the deployment, management or removal of any TTMO. This includes, for example, placing barriers, directing traffic or driving vehicles that are involved in the TTMO. Our Public Liability Insurance covers risks within the Legion's control (e.g. if a Standard is dropped and injures an attendee, but not, say, if someone trips up over a raised paving stone – which would be the local authority's responsibility).

The Legion is clear that while our branches are very willing to assist in the organisation of local Remembrance parades and services, for instance through the provision of Standard Bearers or the identification of local veterans, responsibility for both their funding and delivery rests with civic authorities. In short, Remembrance parades and

services are important community events supported by the Legion, not Legion events supported by the community.

I do hope this provides the clarity that you need, but in the event of any further queries, please contact your MSO in the first instance.

Regards,

Sandra Fruish MBA MSc

Assistant Director Membership

Branch News

Bordon & District

The Branch was asked to lay a Wreath at the Bordon & Whitehill War Memorial for VE75, and the Branch Secretary along with Cllr Paul Wigman EHDC, Cllr Andy Tree & Cllr Katie Anscomb paraded, at social acceptable distance, to lay a Wreath for VE75 on behalf of the Town, and a Wreath for all the NHS Front Line Staff, Carers and Key Workers who have succumbed during the current pandemic.

A larger and more inclusive Commemoration for the community, will take place later in the year or on VE Day 2021



Cllr Paul Wigman EHDC (L) & Mr Darron Back (Secretary)



The Tesco's Store in Bordon, held a "Contactless" collection for VE75 on Friday 8th May and raised over £360.00 for the Bordon & Whitehill Poppy Appeal. People were invited to throw any loose change into the Box and it was counted and bagged by the Tesco staff, before being handed over to the PAO.

As the Bordon & Whitehill Standard Bearer was unable to attend the VE75 Parade on the 8th may, Mr Chalky White and his Family Paraded the Standard at his local War Memorial at Catherington Church



Petersfield

Petersfield Branch held a VE75 Wreath laying at the Petersfield War Memorial on Friday 8th May at 1100hrs. in attendance were David Lloyd, Secretary, Daz Hare, Standard Bearer, and a crew of a South-Central Ambulance Service.



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>Claire Smith</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>

Standard Bearers

Training

All Standard Bearers are reminded that it is current RBL policy that **NO** Standard is present at funerals.

Poppy Appeal

Poppy Seminar

The PAO Seminar has now been cancelled, and a new date will be forthcoming once Governmental and HQ advice allows a meeting to take place. If anyone has any questions about the Poppy Appeal 2020, then please direct them to either of the Community Fund Raisers, (Sarah & Claire)

The Poppy Village is currently looking at ways to ensure that the Poppy Appeal for 2020 can start on time, but adjustments may have to be made by PAO's, so please if you have any ideas or concerns please, again address them to Sarah & Claire. Emails are listed below.

REMINDER

The Membership Council (MC) and Board of Trustees (BoT) would like to remind **ALL** Branches and Clubs that at present there should be **NO** Meetings, Parades or Gatherings of RBL Members until such time as the Government changes its current policy.

The majority of RBL members are classed in the "At Risk Category" for Covid 19, and Branches are strongly advised "That to protect its membership from possible transmission of the virus, meetings should be put on hold".

The MC and BoT will publish any changes to its policy to County Offices, County Chairmen and on Yammer as soon as possible.

**** So Please ****

**** Stay Home ****

**** Stay Safe ****