



We Will Remember Them

Mrs L Harrison – *Women`s Section National Chairman*

Mrs C Dalton – *Bordon & District*

Mr J Stockley - *Petersfield*

Our sincere condolences to family and friends

National News

Poppy Appeal

There are drastic changes to this years Annual Poppy Appeal, and Poppy Appeal Organisers (PAO) should have been contacted by now to explain the current regulations, and what restrictions have been placed on the Appeal this year. If PAO`s have not been contacted then please get in contact with the CFR`s as soon as possible to get the situation resolved.

There will be NO house-to-house or street collections this year, and some Supermarkets are NOT allowing Poppy Sellers in store, as they will be organising their own system as agreed with the Poppy Village, so please do not start complaining if you find NO Poppy Stall in shops as it has been arranged previously.

Poppy Collection Boxes will only be distributed to high foot fall locations this year, and not to as many shops as possible, to mitigate the dangers to the PAO and their volunteers.

The Poppy Village and RBL are expecting a drastic drop in donations this year due to the current situation, but are hoping, as it is the 100th Anniversary of the RBL, next year`s Appeal will be bigger and better.

A number of QR codes will be appearing within districts so that people can make donations via mobile phones, however due to the complications of this, these donations will appear as County Donations, and not PAO District donations.

If you have any queries or worries, then PLEASE get in contact with the CFR`s as soon as possible.

Legion 100 Cookbook

Our corporate partnerships team will be working with St James` House Group (SJHG) to create a Legion 100 cookbook and raise funds for the Legion.

A serving officer in the RAF, John Pullen, would be the author, and he has worked with other charities in the past including SSAFA and Help for Heroes. John and his team are looking to engage a wide variety of the Tri-Service community alongside Legion members and those who we have supported. The book will include stories of hometown heroes from the UK and Commonwealth, alongside recipes from these regions.

The County Chairman has been contacted about this and will be making contact with Branches and individuals once direct contact is made.

Women`s Section

On Sunday 13th September, the National Chairman of the Women`s Section, Liz Harrison sadly passed away, in Carlisle Hospital. It is particularly sad as its is less than a month than she had gone into hospital and then given the devastating news that she had cancer. We have all lost a good friend and fellow WS member. She will be greatly missed. She had such passion for the RBL and especially the Women`s Section. She had great plans for us all, and the Vice-Chairman is committed to continue the work that Liz had planned.

A letter from the National Vice-Chairman is attached for all those to express condolences.

Branch News

EMMB

You may recall that, due to the virus, the normal type of Memorial Parade and Service for Earl Mountbatten, for this year, was cancelled. However, the Officers of the EMMB linked up with the Vicar of Romsey Abbey and his staff and held a simple 'Wreath Laying Ceremony' on Sunday the 6th September 2020. The 16 people present wore face masks and were located, with social distancing, together in the area of the Late Earls Grave Memorial Stone. The format of the Service was made up by the Revd. Thomas Wharton and the EMMB Chairman, Mr Roy Farmers MBE, JP, MCIM. After the entry of the EMMB Standard the Vicar welcomed those present.

A Bible reading was read by Brigadier David Harrison JP, DL. on behalf of the EMMB Members. The Abbey organist then played the tune 'Nimrod' to add to the atmosphere of the event. The EMMB Chairman then reflected on the Service of Earl Mountbatten and especially his work in the Far East after the recent VJ Day 75th Anniversary. The EMMB Chairman then paid tribute to the life of former EMMB President Mike Reed and reminded those present how well he carried out his duties at last years EMMB Service and sadly 'passed to higher glory' a few weeks afterwards.

The late Sid Slater was also mentioned with a reminder that he was a County Vice President as well as being an EMMB Member. The Vicar then offered prayers for the departed and those present all joined together by saying the Lord's Prayer. The EMMB Chairman recited the Exhortation which was followed by the 'Last Post' – two minutes silence – 'Reveille' and then he quoted the Kohima Epitaph.

The EMMB Chairman then laid the 'Poppy Wreath' on the Memorial Stone whilst the Branch Standard was 'dipped' in salute. After the final prayers and blessing the Branch Standard was 'marched off'.

A simple ceremony but really appreciated by those present, especially Countess Mountbatten and the other VIP's in attendance.



Thus, the Late Earl was remembered and the Fortieth Anniversary of the Earl Mountbatten Memorial Branch was recognised at the same time by the Branch Officers at the short, simplified and meaningful event.



Many readers will have watched the VJ Day 75th Anniversary Event held at the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) on the 15th August 2020. You may recall that Prince Charles laid a Wreath on the Burma Railway Memorial during the Service. Prince Charles then moved to the Burma Star Memorial to give his speech. During that speech he mentioned Earl Mountbatten and the part that his Great Uncle played in the Far East during the War as well as the many the other people involved. From the position that Prince Charles

stood, delivering his speech, about 15 yards forward on his left is our Earl Mountbatten Memorial Branch Memorial Tree, which was dedicated in that location back in 2002.



The Memorial Tree Dedication September 2002.

The photo taken at the Dedication in September 2002 shows how much has changed at the NMA by comparison to the many trees seen during this years VJ Day 75 Event on television.



The Plaque with the Memorial Tree.

Countess Mountbatten was able to confirm that Prince Charles had visited our EMMB Memorial Tree whilst at the National Memorial Arboretum during the VJ Day 75 Event. She explained that Prince Charles was pleased to see the Memorial Tree flourishing and located with the Memorial Plaque along with many other Far East Memorials in that area. Prince Charles also mentioned that Earl Mountbatten would have been proud to have ‘his tree’ in that position.

Petersfield

A small pared was held in memory of “The Few” 80th Anniversary of the battle of Britain. In attendance were Petersfield Mayor, Lesley Farrow, The Rev Will Hughes, Daz Hare (Standard Bearer) and members of the Petersfield Branch RBL. There was a short address, a poem, prayers and the laying of a Wreath.



Was held at the St Laurence`s Church, Petersfield on 25th September, to say goodbye to Jimmy Stockley, President of the Petersfield Branch, who passed away earlier in the month.

Lovedean & Horndean

The Members of the Lovedean and Horndean Branch will be losing two of their stalwart Branch Officers soon when they move out of our area to be closer to their Families.

Vice Chairman Bill Todd and his Wife have both recently retired and they are moving back to County Durham. Bill was a very active Branch Member and last year arranged for a Branch visit to Southwick House to see the ‘D’ Day Map Room. In August 2018 Bill proudly carried the Lovedean and Horndean Branch Standard during the Great Pilgrimage 90 event on behalf of our Branch. To recognise Bill’s efforts he was presented with a ‘**Branch Certificate of Appreciation**’ on the 11th September 2020 by

Branch Chairman Mrs Lorraine Jarvis. For a surprise, the presentation took place on his front door step due to no Branch Meetings currently.



Branch Chairman Mrs Lorraine Jarvis presenting Bill with his Certificate.

(Please note that face masks were worn and social distancing rules adhered to during the visit and only relaxed for the photo to be taken as it was important to say a 'thank you' directly to Bill).

However, that was one of the last tasks for the Branch Chairman to carry out as Lorraine is also soon moving to be closer to her Family in Warminster. Lorraine became Branch Chairman in 2013 and was also the Branch Chairman for the Lovedean and District (Women's Section) RBL. This meant a very close link formed between the two Branches, which benefitted the membership of both Branches. To recognise the considerable effort that Lorraine has devoted to the RBL she was surprised and proudly presented with a **'County Certificate of Appreciation'** at the Hampshire County Conference in January 2020.

We are sure that any readers who know or have met Bill and Lorraine whilst they carried out their duties for the RBL will join with us and wish them well with their respective new lives. Hampshire's loss is County Durham and Wiltshire's gain – good luck and thank you to you both.

Old Basing

Old Basing normally hold an Annual Dinner and Dance to coincide with the launch of the Annual Poppy Appeal, however, due to the current restrictions in place this year's event is not able to take place.

On Saturday 24th October, Old Basing are inviting you to dress up and have a Virtual Black tie "at home" dinner and make a donation to the RBL Poppy Appeal.

The attached letter from old Basing explains everything that you need to know about the event, including the live stream and Facebook page for photos.

All money raised will go to the Poppy Appeal, and in the current environment, all donations will be greatly received.

Notices

Telling Our Story

The Legion's centenary year in 2021 will mark a milestone in the history of the organisation, and it's a real opportunity for us to showcase all that we do so well. From its very beginnings in 1921 our members and branches have been at the heart of the Legion and that's why we're turning to you to kick start the centenary commemorations by Telling Our Story.

No one is better placed to tell the story of the Legion's 100 years than its membership community. We need you to delve into the history of your branches and clubs and share Legion related records, artefacts, membership experiences, personal stories and more. Be it assisting Legion beneficiaries, commemorating key events and anniversaries, bringing the community together, or simple stories of the day to day events in your area – no story, item or recollection is too small. This is your story. It's about you, your branches, your community, your local adventures and connections.

We have received a variety of outstanding submissions from Overseas branches, to amalgamated branches like Bexleyheath and Welling, and Dorset County to name a few, and we need your help to keep this momentum going. As branch officials, we need you to share the details of this Centenary activity with members and help to unearth interesting stories and findings to bring colour to the history of the Legion across its 100 years. If members require assistance to submit their findings, submissions can be made on behalf of a branch or individual by a branch member to ensure all can participate. Please ensure you complete the submission form and upload this along with your contributions.

The timeframe to submit findings is 30th September 2020. We will showcase the highlights of the contributions in a *Telling Our Story* Centenary exhibition at Annual Conference 2021. We will also make available to County and Districts the historical material collected from their area to help members preserve our history for the future, and to tell the story of the Legion in their local communities.

To make a submission please visit the dedicated Telling Our Story resource area on [MAP/Office 365](#). You will also find additional resources on how to digitise your findings, and view our exclusive three-part webinar series with Legion historical consultant, Dan Hill, to learn more about the project and how to get involved.

Branch Officers can join our Legion 100 Yammer group for further updates and guidance on Telling Our Story. If you have any queries of need further information in the meantime, please email tellingourstory@britishlegion.org.uk

Attachments

EMMB Memorial Service Sheet
Legion 28-8 US Presidents Solution
Old Basing Virtual Black-Tie Dinner
WS Nation Chairman Letter (RIP Liz)

COVID-19 Update

PLEASE remember that all Service`s of Remembrance MUST follow National & Local lock down restrictions.
Failure to follow the current regulations, could open you up to fines.

Branch Meetings

There is currently NO change to the RBL policy for Branch Meetings, in such, Branch Meetings should be restricted to On-Line or Social Media Meetings only.
All Branches are reminded that they will be liable for any action taken against them as the RBL states all Branches MUST follow Local & National Lockdown Restrictions. Haig House will not accept any liability for failure to comply with the current guidelines.

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.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)

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>