



We Will Remember Them

Vice Admiral Sir Geoffrey Dalton KCB – *Lovedean & Horndean*

Mr ADJ Cockett – *Lovedean & Horndean*

Mr D Perry – *Sutton Scotney*

Our sincere condolences to family and friends

County News

Awards for Members

All members and Branches are encouraged to take advantage of the awards that are on offer to recognise outstanding service. There are several awards that can be made to individuals or groups. Listed below are some of the awards that should be considered.

If you or your Branch can identify someone deserving of recognition, then please consider a nomination. Guidance is available through the hyperlinks in this document (press Ctrl and click on link at the same time). Alternatively, you can get some advice from a member of the County Committee.

Please read and pass around the attached article your Branch, and if required contact the County Committee for more information.

Branches

Earl Mountbatten Memorial Branch

Brigadier Douglas Covill MBE DCM on your 100th birthday on the 10th November this year.

Dougie joined the Hampshire County Committee as a County Vice President in 1983 from his home town of Alresford.

He was elected County President in 1985 and served for 11 years and on his retirement was made a Life Vice President of Hampshire County. He was awarded a County Certificate in 1988, the Gold Badge in 1995 and was made a Life Member of the Royal British Legion in 2000.

He currently lives in Upper Beeding, West Sussex. He joined the Earl Mountbatten Memorial Branch in 1986 and the Members of the Branch offer their best wishes on this memorable achievement and are extremely sorry that the

Covid restrictions do not enable us to celebrate with him in person.

The attached photograph shows the presentation of Life Member certificates to Maj Covill MBE DCM, to Sid Slatter (County Vice President – now no longer with us) and Brian Soffe (County Committee) by the National Chairman, John Champ at Alresford. The County Standard was carried by the late Ian McDougal.



Pictured (L-R): Ian McDougal, Sid Slatter, John Champ (National Chairman), Major Covill MBE DCM, Brian CN Soffe

Lovedean & Horndean

The Lovedean and Horndean Branch wish to report that their former Branch President has sadly passed away. **Vice Admiral Sir Geoffrey Dalton KCB** served as the Branch President of our Branch from 2008 until 2018. He had a very distinguished career in the Royal Navy, the highlights of which were recorded in his Obituary written in the Daily Telegraph on the 13th October 2020. He was also mentioned in the Times on the 22nd October 2020. He was knighted as KCB in 1986 for his efforts within the Royal Navy and on leaving the Service he turned his attention to helping several charities and held important posts. In 1993 Sir Geoffrey became the first Admiral to be selected as the National President of the Royal

British Legion since Lord Jellico in the 1920's. During his four years in office as the National President he was proud to be involved with the 50th Anniversary of 'D' Day and the reintroduction of the 'two minutes silence' on Armistice Day. The task of reciting the Exhortation and Kohima Epitaph during the Festival of Remembrance in the Royal Albert Hall was a memorable experience. To carry out that duty in front of the Royal Family, a packed Royal Albert Hall and with millions of people watching on TV was a great honour for him. Therefore, to carry out the same duty on Remembrance Day and other similar events in our local area, on behalf of our Branch, was still very important but less stressful. In addition, Sir Geoffrey's Wife Jane was the Poppy Appeal Organiser for the Horndean area and Sir Geoffrey took an active part helping her. Despite his links in higher circles he was quite happy to sit at the 'poppy table' in the local supermarket collecting during the appeal time, which gave encouragement to the other collectors in the area.



Sir Geoffrey introducing Her Majesty the Queen to the National Chairman in July 1996.

Sir Geoffrey's 'final parade' took place at the Oaks Crematorium on Tuesday 20th October 2020 with the Lovedean and Horndean RBL Branch Standard leading the hearse on the final part of the journey. With the Standard Bearer unable to enter the Chapel due to the virus limitations the Standard was 'dipped' in salute as the pall bearers carried Sir Geoffrey into the Chapel whilst the music of the Naval Hymn, 'For those in peril on the sea', was played over the loud speakers. Some of Sir Geoffrey's former 'shipmates' in attendance were full of praise for his efforts whilst they all served together. With only 30 people able to attend the 'Thanksgiving Service' for Sir

Geoffrey, his Family are planning to hold a Memorial Service when the virus situation allows it.

Overall, a real true gentleman who achieved a lot in his life, inspired us all and we were very proud to have him as our Branch President.

Sutton Scotney

It is with great sadness to report that MR David Perry, the longest serving member of the Sutton Scotney Branch passed away on Sunday 25th October. David joined the Branch in 1948 and was a supporter of the Branch events and activities, even after moving to a new area. He was the "Father of the Branch" and followed his father, who was a founder member of the Branch in 1936.

Petersfield

The Poppy Appeal launched on Saturday 24th October, and will be running through to Saturday 7th November, followed by Remembrance Sunday on the 8th November.

Daz Hare set one stall up at Petersfield Market, whilst David Lloyd and his wife had a stall in Tesco's.



Bordon & District

The Branch, with the assistance of the Tesco Community Champion, Fi Edwards, have had a restricted Poppy Stall at the local Tesco Store. We have been following the Local restrictions, along with the restriction placed on us by the small store, but we have been supported brilliantly by the community.

The Branch will be assisting the Town Council with a socially distanced Remembrance Service on the 11th November, when only a few people will be in attendance to lay Wreaths. The rest of the community will be able to lay Wreaths during the rest of the day.

Poppy Appeal

Attached to the Newsletter are copies of the North & South Hampshire QR Code posters, please be aware, that these codes will not be credited to any Branch, unless the Branch has specific QR codes, these donations will be credited to a central account.

For more information on how to support the Poppy Appeal this year visit the RBL website @ <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/things-to-do/fundraise-for-us/fundraising-ideas/fundraising-resources>

Poppy Appeal Organisers are requested to follow National & Local Restrictions when setting up their stalls, and if they are set up in local establishments, they MUST follow the guidance of that establishment. Failure to comply for National, Local or establishment guidelines could result in fines being levied against the volunteer on the stall that the RBL will not reimburse.

Notifications about the major supermarkets and other major retailers have been sent to PAO`s who are requested to ensure they are followed correctly. The supermarket and retailers have the right to refuse permission for Poppy Stalls if their regulations are not followed correctly.

Those PAO`s that have received a card reader this year must ensure that they are returned by the 31st November, please send a copy of the Post Office`s recorded/registered delivery receipt to the CFR`s to allow tracking of the devices. The Poppy Appeal hires these machines each year and they are costly if not returned in full, including the Power Bank and adaptors. Failure to return the card machine correctly, could result in that Branch not being permitted to have a card machine again.

Full cost of the postage can be reclaimed using the PAO`s expenses claim form, from the CFR`s.

Notices

Forced Resettlement

British Forces Resettlement Services (BFRS), are running a virtual careers fair for the Armed Forces Community (AFC). For us, the AFC are those serving, Service Leaver, Reserve Forces, Veterans, and the Families.

It would be fantastic if you were able to share this with your Armed Forces Network.

Our Virtual Careers Fair holistically combines real world services with technological and virtual solutions. Attendees can access in-house information from exhibitors, even when there isn't a person to engage with in real time.

The virtual event connects the attendees with online exhibitors, giving access to exhibitors' websites, social media channels, videos, jobs, courses, downloadable company information, it allows appointments, sending messages and viewing live and on demand webcasts.

Essentially, it is an engaging on-demand virtual event. Bringing together employers, training providers, career advice and the Armed Forces Community, which will deliver results through these call to actions.

Anyone can register and set up an attendee profile, please follow the link below to register:

<https://cattericknovember2020.omnivil.com>

Attendees will be able to access all the companies and content between 09:00hrs 24th November 2020 to 23:59 hours 26th November 2020, it is recommended people create career profile and upload a CV beforehand.

The Not Forgotten

The Not Forgotten is seeking your support to find and thank our remaining World War II veterans, who have been denied their 75th anniversary celebrations by Covid-19.

While a sense of normality is returning for many, the harsh realities of the pandemic still exists for our veterans, who have been forced to spend VE and VJ Day at home. For our new centenary project, we will send up to 5,000 WW2 veterans a gift, to thank them for their service and the phenomenal generation they represent.

Your support will enable us to find as many World War II veterans as possible so that we can give them a bit of cheer at this extraordinary time, remind them their service remains valued, and that they are not forgotten.

The Not Forgotten was founded in 1920 to provide entertainment and recreational opportunities to wounded, injured and sick serving personnel and veterans with disabilities. Our

founder, Marta Cunningham, declared that “... as long as there are sufferers so long will *The Not Forgotten* be needed”. One hundred years on we are proud and privileged to be still supporting over 10,000 beneficiaries each year.

Any veteran of the Royal Navy, Army, Royal Air Force and Merchant Navy who served during WW2 (1939 – 1945) and who lives in the UK is eligible to receive the gift box – known as the *Forgot You Not Box*. This includes those who served in the Commonwealth Armed Forces in support of Britain’s war effort and now live in the UK.

The boxes will start to be sent out at the end of October and will contain a variety of specially produced commemorative gifts. The aim is to bring the veterans a bit of cheer and to thank them for all they gave. It will also be an appropriate way to acknowledge 100 years of support by *The Not Forgotten* to those who have suffered and served their nation.

To register for the gift the veteran, or authorised member of their family or carer needs to send us the following information:

- Full name - first name, surname and maiden name if appropriate
- Service number
- Military details – Arm/Unit of service and dates
- Full postal address & Telephone number
- Date of birth
- Details of individual/organisation providing this data if not the veteran.

Details can be submitted online at <https://thenotforgotten.org/how-we-help/forgot-you-not/> (which will go live on the 15 September 2020) or sent to info@thenotforgotten.org. This information will not be shared and will be deleted once the project is complete.

I do hope you can help us on this quest to recognise that great generation for all they gave.

County Websites

RBL Website:

www.BritishLegion.org.uk

County Website:

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

Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/groups/hantscountyrb/

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>
County Life Vice-President	<i>Maj DF Covill MBE DCM</i>
County Vice President	<i>Brian CN Soffe</i> <i>Robert G Knight</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>
Chair - Conference Committee	<i>Brian Mansi</i>
CFR – Manager SW	<i>Claire Peppiatt</i>
CFR – Hampshire North	<i>Sarah Ferris</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>