



The Newsletter of Hampshire County
104 Above Bar Street
Southampton
Hampshire
SO14 7DT



2nd January 2021

Registered Charity Number 219279

We Will Remember Them

Mr D Cox – *Sutton Scotney*

Our sincere condolences to family and friends

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTY PATRON

As we start the New Year, I want to congratulate everyone in The Royal British Legion in Hampshire for the manner in which you have all responded to the COVID crisis. It has been a very tough year and although further challenges lie ahead, I want to thank the Area and County staffs, all Branches, volunteers and members for the exceptional work that has taken place especially at the local level.

There is much to look forward to as we enter our Centenary year and emerge from the COVID crisis. “Legion 100” will not only celebrate the terrific achievements of the last 100 years, but will also look to the future by promoting the role of our distinguished charity. The aim is to publicise and demonstrate how The Royal British Legion will continue to support and help all members of the Armed Forces, veterans and of course families. I encourage all Branches to play a full part in this year’s celebrations.

Lieutenant General Sir Mark Mans KCB CBE DL

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN

It would be an understatement to say that 2020 was a challenging year but while much of our daily lives has changed, I have been encouraged to hear how members in Hampshire have continued to support those most in need in their communities. Your efforts demonstrate how invaluable the Royal British Legion is within Hampshire and I thank you all, employees and volunteers alike for your dedication and hard work.

This changing way of life, while unsettling to many also gives our Branches an opportunity to adapt to different ways when conducting normal Branch business and develop new, possibly unfamiliar ways to communicate with your members. My Committee and I are committed to supporting you with this and as we move into our Centenary year, I hope you can join with us on this historic milestone to further publicise our great work with the Armed Forces community in Hampshire

Mr Timothy Russell

National News

Telling Our Stories

Telling Our Stories, a truly inspirational strand of our Centenary 100 delivery next year. This drive will continue until the end of February when the quest for contributions will have to end in order that we can build the final product. So we still have time to get everyone’s story.

I have included some strands that I have used to illustrate to all our members that they all have a story.

They include:

Individual connections:

- **Why did you join the Legion?**
- **What do you enjoy about Legion membership?**

- **Who do you connect with within the community with your membership activities and why?**
- **What are your membership highlights?**

Branch connections:

- **How the Branch began.**
- **Who those key people were in starting the Branch and their story?**
- **Notable Branch achievements.**
- **What the highlights have been over the years.**

Other items of interest:

- **Branch Poppy Appeal history.**
- **Branch Remembrance history.**
- **The Branch Standard Bearer history of events.**
- **The Branch BCS History and reach to the wider community.**
- **Branch Memorial activities.**
- **The Branch Secretary and that roles connectivity, who, where, what they are doing.**
- **The connection with any Outreach's and their respective reach and effect.**

This is a unique opportunity to showcase who we are, what we have done and how effective we have been, and still are. If you have any articles of interest that are accompanied with photographs, records, power point presentations or any historical document that would be fantastic, but if not, a short story from your recollections of the time and event is just as important.

You can submit your story by sending it direct to tellingourstory@britishlegion.org.uk.

Alternatively, my email is ahodson@britishlegion.org.uk, if that is easier for you.

In closing, I wish you all the greetings of this festive season and hope that you all have an enjoyable and safe Christmas and New Year.

Andrew Hodson

Engagement and Development Officer

County News

Training

As with so much else training in Hampshire in 2020 has been a disaster with none of the plans I had coming to fruition. We can but hope that 2021

will see a return to something resembling normality and I will certainly do my level best to try to catch up and provide the training that I know so many of you need. It is my sincere hope that the provision of training in the future will prove to be much more streamlined and user friendly. While the rest of the populous was fighting over the last multi pack of toilet paper and trying to squeeze another packet of dried pasta under the stairs, we in the Membership Training department have been quietly working away modifying not only the way that training is presented within the Legion, but also developing new and improved training modules and content.

The work associated with the Training Review began over twelve months ago and was due to be completed by October 2020. Due to the limitations imposed by the corona virus situation this proved unachievable so the decision was taken to extend the completion date to April 2021. We are currently on track to complete the proposed work by this revised date. The purpose of the review was to modernise the way that training is presented in the Legion and to provide a platform that enables more members to have access to training. It was decided at an early stage that we should develop training that can be moved online in parallel with the physical face to face training. To this aim an existing online training platform has been chosen which is being modified to make it more relevant to our needs. As well as utilising some of the generic training modules that come as part of the package with the training platform, bespoke RBL training courses are being developed which will be divided into a number of modules, each module being of about 90 minutes which is the time it is considered an adult can comfortably spend in front of a computer screen at one time. As these training courses are being developed, they are being presented to the Validation Panel to ensure there are no further delays to the platform going live.

In parallel with the new online training platform, we will also be holding certain physical courses for those who prefer to receive their training face to face. This will include the one-day Branch Management and Branch Treasurer courses. As these are courses, we can hold locally in the county there is no reason why we cannot run courses at individual branches provided there are enough delegates. It is my considered opinion that all branch officers and where appropriate all

committee members should attend these courses in order to learn what their roles and responsibilities are in accordance with the Royal Charter and the Membership Management Manual. This should also be considered as a refresher for those who received their training some time ago.

Obviously no physical training can take place until we are given the go ahead, but be sure that as soon as that happens then I will do my level best to get the ball rolling to enable 2021 to be a much more successful training year than 2020.

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. With more and more Legion activities and information migrating online, now is the time to embrace this technology knowing that we are here to offer help and support to get you started. If your branch is interested in this then please contact me at Hampshire.cto@rbl.community. Our Membership Support Officer, Chris Bolton, is available to provide you with the log-in details for your branch.

Mike Davis

Hampshire CTO

Hampshire.cto@rbl.community

Branches

Bordon & District

It is a pleasure to announce that two Poppy Appeal Collectors from the Bordon & District Branch both reach significant milestones this year, Mr Steve Johnstone, former County Committee Member, and former Welfare Officer for Hampshire, and Mrs Ivy Newman attained their 50 Year Badge and certificate, unfortunately due to ill health both collectors have decided to call it day after such a long and distinguished time collecting for the Poppy Appeal, and all Branch members send their very best to Steve and Ivy and look forward to meeting them out and about. Due to Covid Restrictions, we have not been able to do a big presentation, but when the time is right the Branch will be honouring the pair as befitting their achievements.

Centennial of the RBL

Brief History Lesson

The Royal British Legion has been supporting service Men & Women, ex-serving personnel and

their families since 1921, and we are not planning on going anywhere.

the British Legion was formed 15th May 1921, bringing together four national organisations of ex-Servicemen that had established themselves after the First World War:

- The National Association of Discharged Sailors and Soldiers
- The British National Federation of Discharged and Demobilized Sailors and Soldiers
- The Comrades of The Great War
- The Officers' Association

The amalgamation of these diverse bodies can be attributed largely to two men: Field Marshal Earl Haig and Tom Lister of The Federation of Discharged and Demobilized Sailors and Soldiers. Lord Haig served as the President of The Royal British Legion until his death.

As a result of the war, Britain's economy plummeted and in 1921 there were two million people unemployed.

Over six million men had served in the war, of those that returned, 1.75 million had suffered some kind of disability and half of these were permanently disabled.

Then there were those who depended on those who had gone to war – the wives and children, widows, and orphans, as well as the parents who had lost sons in the war, on whom they were often financially dependent.

The Legion was established to care for those who had suffered as a result of service during the First World War. And we've been helping the Armed Forces community and their families ever since.

Eligibility

We're dedicated to supporting not only serving and ex-serving personnel but the whole of the Armed Forces community, including dependants and carers. This includes:

- Serving personnel, or those who have previously served, who have received seven days' pay and were aged 16 or over at the time of service
- Reserve or Auxiliary personnel, or those who have previously served

- Those who have served with the Mercantile Marine afloat in hostile waters
- Current or previous full-time members of Allied Civil Police Forces
- Those entitled to the campaign medal issued to the Royal Navy, Army or Royal Air Force to those giving them direct support or under their command
- Any member of Voluntary Aid Societies who has served full-time and in uniform in direct support of the United Kingdom Armed Forces
- Any British subject (by birth or otherwise) who has served at least seven days in the Forces of an Allied nation during hostilities and received seven days' pay from that nation
- Any British subject (by birth or otherwise) who served in a resistance organisation of an Allied nation during hostilities in which the United Kingdom Armed Forces were engaged
- Any person who served in the Home Guard for at least six months, or in a Bomb and Mine Disposal Unit for at least three months
- Any person who was awarded the Defence Medal in respect of service in the Home Guard or in a Bomb and Mine Disposal Unit

We can also provide support for Commonwealth citizens who are residents in the UK as well as past and present members of the Brigade of Gurkhas and their families.

The Royal British Legion will be celebrating its 100th year in a number of ways this year, and Branches are requested to let the Area Office and County Fund raisers of any events that they are planning, so the full support of the RBL is available.

It would be nice for Branches to inform the Hampshire Link and County Facebook editor all the events so they can publish the details and help get you the maximum support of the County Membership.

You can contact the Hampshire Link Newsletter @ hampshirelink@outlook.com
And Facebook admin, Avril @ Hampshire.web@rbl.community

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>
County Life Vice-President	<i>Maj DF Covill MBE DCM</i>
County Vice President	<i>Brian CN Soffe 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>Vacant</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>

