



1st May 2021

Registered Charity Number 219279

We Will Remember Them

To all those Members that passed this month

Our sincere condolences to family and friends

National News

Legion 100

As you are all very much aware this is a real milestone year for the Royal British Legion as we celebrate our Centenary. We have come a long way since our inauguration in 1921 and are eager to ensure that you are able to celebrate our 100 years in these uncertain times.

Our counties and branches lie at the very heart of our communities and we hope that you will engage your families, friends, and other groups, particularly the Armed Forces communities to join in these celebrations whether physical or virtual. In the attached document you will find information that can help you plan centenary events and activities.

We wish you a lot of success in organising these celebrations.

Janet Talman

Director of Membership

Armed Forces Covenant Review

Having campaigned for the Armed Forces Covenant to be enshrined in the Armed Forces Act 2011, the RBL is marking the ten-year anniversary of the Covenant by producing a report reflecting on its impact on the wellbeing of serving personnel, veterans, and their families. Some of you may have seen in the March e-newsletter a request to participate in a survey on the impact you feel the covenant has had and how it can be improved going forward.

So far, we've received only 157 responses.

If you have already participated in the survey - thank you very much; you can ignore this email.

If you haven't - we'd like to hear your views so please complete this [short survey](#) to tell us about the impact you feel the covenant has had and how

it can be improved going forward. Please share the link with any members that might be interested in providing their feedback.

Karolina Brzeska

Head of Membership Operations

County News

Group Meeting

The minutes from the previous Group meeting are attached to this newsletter, for all to read, prior to the next group meeting, detailed below:

I am pleased to advise that the next Group Meeting via Microsoft Office Teams will be held on Saturday 29th May between 10:00 and 12:00hrs

A calendar invitation will be sent out to you nearer the time so you can log on and participate. As before, the structure will be informal but will follow an Agenda which will be sent out in due course.

I have sent out the minutes to the previous meeting, if you have not received them, please contact me.

Please Note: If you have any detailed questions, send them to me as soon as possible, this will allow time to give you the fullest possible answers on the day.

We expect at least two Committee members, preferably Table Officers per Branch take part in this Seminar.

Please confirm your attendance by replying directly to me, with the following information:

Name:-

Position:-

Branch:-

Due to GDPR please check with your other Branch officers to ensure that they have received

the email, if not, please forward it onto them directly.

Tim Russell

Hampshire County Chairman

County Youth Officers

Steve Slack introduced himself as our new County Youth Officer. Steve told us he joined the RBL 15 years ago and is ex-REME. He is currently Standard Bearer and PAO for Whitchurch Branch and is an Army Cadet instructor with strong links in the organisation in Hampshire. His first plan is to get information on all branch affiliations with Army cadet units and see where there may be gaps for youth standard bearers. Where no affiliation currently exists, he will be looking to get one in place. He will also be looking for Scout and Guide groups connections and has some contacts already but would appreciate any further leads.

Poppy News

Hampshire Festival of Remembrance

This year's Hampshire Festival of Remembrance will take place at the Mayflower, Southampton on Sunday 7th November 2021.

Tickets will go on sale from the 10th May, and priced from £10.00.

Attached is a poster for the Festival.

Branch News

Petersfield

David Lloyd, Secretary of the Petersfield Branch, laid a Wreath in honour of HRH Prince Philip, he Duke of Edinburgh, at the Petersfield War Memorial, with St Peter's Church flying at half-mast.



David Lloyd, Petersfield Secretary laying Wreath

Bordon & District

The Bordon Branch, in conjunction with the local REME Association Branch, laid Wreaths at the Bordon Military Cemetery on Sat 17th April, to mark the funeral of HRH Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh. Rev Wendy Mallas, the Branches pastoral support, said a few Prayers, the President of the REME Association, and Chairman of REME Association & RBL Branch both said words in honour of the Duke. A number of Branch members from the RBL & REME Assoc were in attendance, with the Wreath centres of REME Assoc Badge & Duke of Edinburgh Crest.



Brockenhurst

Ninety-three New Zealand soldiers, and those from other Commonwealth countries who died in Brockenhurst's military hospitals in World War One have been commemorated. An annual service of remembrance and commemoration is held on ANZAC day, which this year fell on Sunday April 25. The Australia and New Zealand Army Corps day is the national day of remembrance in those countries and Brockenhurst shares in the commemoration.

Thousands of New Zealand, Indian and other nations soldiers were treated for their wounds in Brockenhurst during the first world war. The village was selected because it had clear air, good transport links, and as well as a large hospital being built at Tile Barn, local hotels and halls were turned over to treatment of the wounded. Not all survived, and the St Nicholas churchyard has a dedicated war cemetery to those who died despite the care they were given.

The service was led by Brockenhurst vicar Simon Newham, and the Exhortation read by Air Vice Marshal Andrew Roberts, RAF (ret'd), who is president of the Brockenhurst Branch of the Royal British Legion. The British legion arranges the service, and this year is its 100th anniversary as a branch. Numbers were restricted to 50 because of COVID, but local children's organisations laid a wreaths in the morning.

Wreaths were laid on the New Zealand war memorial by the office of the New Zealand High Commissioner; the New Zealand and Australian Defence Forces; Brockenhurst Parish Council and the Royal British legion, among others. The New Zealand bell, given to St Nicholas Church by the country after World War One was tolled 94 times before the service – one time for each grave in the war cemetery.

“Hundreds of thousands of soldiers came from New Zealand, Australia and other commonwealth countries to fight in the First World War.,” says From Capt. Mike Matthew. RN. Chairman, Brockenhurst Branch of the Royal British Legion, himself a former UK Military Attaché in Wellington. “Sadly many did not make it home. Here in Brockenhurst the wounded were treated, and despite the care and devotion of hospital staff, many died and are buried here. This service, as

every year, reminds our community of their sacrifice; and those in other parts of the world, especially their relatives, that more than a century later their sons are not forgotten and we will remember them.”



AFM Andrew Roberts delivers the Exhortation



Notices

MESSAGE SENT ON BEHALF OF THE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

Marking the Centenary of the Royal British Legion – 15th May 2021

Our Founding History. On Sunday 15 May 1921, a wet and dreary day, a small number of ex-Servicemen walked to the Cenotaph war memorial in London's Whitehall. As Big Ben struck nine, four men representing societies that for three years had been rivals laid a wreath at the base of the memorial. On that wreath were the badges of the four organisations that would officially amalgamate to form the British Legion. This moment was the starting gun for the Royal British Legion we know today. By Christmas of 1921 the ranks of our organisation had swelled to include 2,500 branches across the country, as well as overseas. These were the groups around which the armed forces community rallied after the First World War. They made change happen, fundraised during the Poppy Appeal, provided welfare locally and became the foundations for what has become the UK's largest Armed Forces charity.

Centenary Wreath Laying. One hundred years later we are proud to still have 2,500 branches, some with a history reaching back to 1921 and others established in the last decade. To mark the moment of our founding, we are recreating the activity of that day and our National President and serving personnel will lay a wreath at the Cenotaph at 0900 hours on Saturday 15th May, under the rule of six. That moment at the Cenotaph 100 years ago sparked the beginning of something much bigger and to demonstrate that we would like to invite representatives from branches to lay a wreath at your local memorial, or a memorial of your choice, either to coincide with the activity at the Cenotaph 0900 hours on 15th May 2021.

Direction. We are asking Branch representatives to lay a wreath at 0900 hours on 15th May 2021, on condition that this activity can be performed in a Covid-19-safe manner. Please visit your government's website to check the latest information on restrictions and guidelines:
England: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>
Wales: <https://gov.wales/current-restrictions>

NI: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-regulations-guidance-what-restrictions-mean-you>

Overseas: please check your country's government website.

The invitation for branches to lay wreaths is not intended to detract from the virtual Annual Conference on the 15th May and is a separate opportunity for branches to mark the centenary should they wish.

Wreaths can be ordered from [here](#) and should be arranged by the branch no later than 30 Apr.

Branch Media. If you are engaging with local media around this moment, please inform your local Regional Press Officer at PRTeam@britishlegion.org.uk

Social Media. We would encourage any photos of the wreath laying to be shared on social media via your Branch, regional RBL or personal account, making it clear you are marking RBL's centenary and tagging the RBL accounts:

Facebook: @OfficialPoppyLegion

Twitter: @PoppyLegion

Instagram: @royalbritishlegion

On Twitter and Instagram, you can also use the hashtag #RBL100

Una Cleminson

National Chairman

Standards

There are currently no changes to the Royal British Legion's Policy on Standard's being Paraded, but it is hoped that due to the current Covid Vaccination program, it is hoped that the Membership Council will update its policy very soon, and Standards will once again be seen at funerals and at National & Local events.

Please keep an eye out for further information from the Membership Team.



hampshire
Festival of Remembrance
7.11.2021 7pm

Mayflower
Theatre

www.mayflower.org.uk
02380 711811



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</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>A Knight</i> |
| Branch Support – North | <i>Jacki Gatfield</i> |
| Branch Support - South | <i>Andy Knight</i> |
| Youth Officer | <i>Steve Slack</i> |
| Chair - Conference Committee | <i>Brian Mansi</i> |
| CFR – Manager SW | <i>Claire Peppiatt</i> |
| CFR – Hampshire North | <i>Vacant</i> |
| CFR – Hampshire South & IoW | <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> |