

We Will Remember Them

Major D F Covill MBE, DCM – *County Life Vice-President, Alresford & EMMB*

Mr R. Hill-Brown – *Lovedean & Horndean*

Mrs M. Clout – *Aldershot*

Our sincere condolences to family and friends

Important Notice

The Area Office is now **CLOSED**,
for Branches wishing to send County
Welfare Donations, please ensure
they are sent to:

Hampshire Treasurer
12 Cedar Place
Bransgore
Christchurch
BH23 8BX

If you wish to use BACS the details are:

Sort Code: **20 79 25**

Account Number: **10442690**

Account Name: **Royal British Legion Hants
County Committee**

For all Branch Accounts, Audits etc, please use the
Treasurer's address above, for all other details
contact the County Chairman @

Hampshire.Chairman@rbl.community

County News

Membership Support Officer

I am writing to advise you that I will be leaving
the MSO Hampshire & IOW post to take up a new
appointment in Community Fundraising on Friday
19th November.

As you know, my appointment as the Hampshire
& IOW MSO was only a temporary arrangement
to cover the gap between the early departure of
Chris Bolton and the appointment of a new MSO.
A new MSO is in the process of being recruited
but has not been appointed, and therefore, there
will be a slight gap in MSO cover. With this in
mind, I will try and assist with urgent matters
where I can, but my capacity to help will be

limited, so please do not submit general queries to
me after Friday 19th November.

For branch accounts returns and queries, please
continue to submit these to me for uploading onto
the system. I will be in touch to chase anything
outstanding if I haven't already. A list of
outstanding accounts actions will be sent to the
County Chairman.

Would you please retain all MS1 returns until a
new MSO is appointed, if you have already
submitted your MS1 to me, there is no
requirement to re-submit.

I want to express my gratitude to the County
Chairman, the County Committee and all branches
for their understanding and patience in what has
been a challenging time for me covering four
counties.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to support
Hampshire and IOW for the last six months, and I
would like to wish you all the very best for the
future.

Paul Bunce

MSO – Wiltshire, Hampshire & IoW

County Life Vice-President

It is with great sadness that we announce the
passing of Major D F Covill MBE, DCM, County
Life Vice President.

Dougie was a Member of Alresford Branch and a
Member of the Earl Mountbatten Memorial
Branch since 1986, County Vice President from
1983 - 1985 and County President from 1985 till
1996.

Dougie passed away peacefully, in the presence of
his family the day after his 101st Birthday on the
15th November.

County Conference

The Hampshire County Conference will take online via Microsoft Teams on Saturday 15th January. Details for the Conference have been sent to Branch Secretaries, and any that have not received their packs should contact the County Chairman.

Training - Update

At present the only Branch Treasurer training available is online using the Learning Management System. In order for me to apply on behalf of delegates I require the following information;

- Full name
- RBL Membership number
- E-mail address
- Branch
- County

I can then apply to the Membership Training department who will then contact the delegates with how to proceed.

I am still planning to hold one day Branch Management Training courses throughout the county on a face-to-face basis starting in the New Year. I would ask that all branches evaluate what their requirements are with respect to this course and let me know as soon as possible what they require. If you feel that the entire Branch committee would benefit from either of these courses then we can consider holding a branch specific course if there are sufficient candidates.

Given how long it is since we held any training in Hampshire, I am out of touch with what locations are still available (Area office in Southampton is closed for example) so if you feel that you have a suitable location that you are willing to provide for training then please let me know. Once I have a better understanding of what training is required and where, then I will compile a list of courses and locations. Please remember that I only have one pair of hands so there are physical limitations to what I can achieve and be advised that I will do my utmost to try to catch up with the backlog of training required throughout the county.

Mike Davis

Hampshire CTO

Hampshire.cto@rbl.community

Branch News

Petersfield

Petersfield Branch members were out in full force for the Poppy Appeal again this year, setting up stalls in various locations.



PAO & Standard Bearer – Daz Hare

11/11 was Armistice Day, comprising 100th Anniversary of Petersfield War Memorial, Dedication of Petersfield RBL Pennant, Act of Remembrance, Dedication of "Our thanks to our Allies Stone", Toast to our Allies and signing of the Armed Forces Covenant.

14/11 was Remembrance Sunday; March Past, Service in the Square and service by the War Memorial with prayers, wreath laying and reading of the names of Petersfield's Fallen.



"Our Thanks to our Allies Stone"



Remembrance Sunday – March Past



Signing of the Armed Forces Covenant

Brockenhurst

Please find attached to the Link, the full write up from Branch Vice-Chairman Tim Thomas:
 “We gathered at the War Memorial in Sway Road for our Service of Remembrance to honour those who fought and died for us in two World Wars and the conflicts that have arisen since.



We also celebrated the centenary of the creation of the Royal British Legion which has been a hugely important ingredient in the welfare of ex-servicemen and women and their dependants and a staunch advocate for National support for showing our gratitude.....”

Liss

Liss commemorated both Armistice Day on the 11th and Remembrance Sunday on the 14th of November with gatherings at the War Memorial Green in the centre of the village. Participants taking the formal roles in the Sunday event included councillors, the Royal British Legion, ACF cadets, Scouts, Guides and Liss Athletic FC. Liss Band played from before the ceremony and throughout and the short religious service was led by the Rector, Rev Chris Williams. With COVID-19 restrictions being less than last year, many villagers also attended to pay their respects to the Fallen of the Village, the Country and the Commonwealth. Councillor Keith Budden thanked everyone for attending and said that Remembrance Sunday was one of the events the village always commemorated so well. Once again the rain held off until the end of the event when the contingents marched off.



Lovedean & Horndean

During Remembrance tide in 2021 the Lovedean and Horndean Branch were in mourning for the sad loss of their Branch Chairman who passed peacefully away at home on Tuesday 9th Nov, surrounded by his Family. He was a young and active 84 years old. **Richard Hill-Brown** was a man who was proud to ‘volunteer’ to help things keep going when he could see the need. In typical fashion he ‘volunteered’ to take up the post of Branch Chairman in October 2020 after the pervious Chairman, Lorraine, had moved out of the area

A full tribute from Lovedean & Horndean Branch is attached to the Link.

Totton

Thank you to everyone who volunteered or donated to the Totton Poppy Appeal. We have raised a wonderful £20,000 and collected in ASDA Totton and elsewhere in the town. Local schools also took part in the appeal and attended

the Armistice Service at Totton Memorial on 11th November."

Aldershot

Autumn has been a very busy season for the Aldershot Branch of The Royal British Legion. Following the shortened Poppy Appeal of 2020, the members looked forward to a full Appeal in 2021. In total, 44 volunteer collectors, supported by the Aldershot Army Cadet Force and the 2nd Aldershot Scout Group, manned 3 permanent and 2 semi-permanent stands in the town for two weeks. This was on top of attending other fundraising and ceremonial events.



Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday silences across the town were impeccably observed. The

Branch were present on the 11th in the Wellington Centre, Tesco, Morrisons, and Sainsbury local for the two minutes silence with the shops shutting their doors for the duration. Remembrance Sunday saw our Standard present at events all over the Borough of Rushmoor. Over 400 people were present in the Municipal Gardens for the main Civic Ceremony in Aldershot. It was fantastic to see every Scout Group in Aldershot represented by all sections. This support from the local youth organisations is vital to our charity as we head



into our next 100 years of supporting our servicemen and women and their families. Their participation in the event makes it the friendly community

Remembrance service it has grown into. The Branch was then represented at the Garrison Church, the Rushmoor Remembers event and the beautiful Candle lit Graves ceremony at dusk.

A Remembrance parade took place at the Aldershot v Grimsby football match where seven



coming from the cross-bar challenge at halftime!

We also had the opportunity to interact with the local garrison, something we love to do. We had volunteer collectors from the Garrison as well as the invitation to attend the Irish Guards Coffee Morning organised by Cpl Ellen Taylor. A fantastic array of poppy cakes, biscuits and a performance from the pipes raised a fantastic



£263. All this the day before she took part in a 100k tab to the Cenotaph and back raising another £2,500.

Spreading our wings wider, our Standard was carried at the Festival of Remembrance by Andy Cassidy and we were represented at the Service commemorating 100 years of the RBL in Westminster Abbey by Mick and Caroline Mills in the presence of HM The Queen.

The Branch were also invited to attend the "Security Twentyone" conference to give a speech about the Poppy Appeal. This brought more than £2,600 into the branch Poppy Appeal total and we thank them for their generosity.

So, a busy time but thoroughly enjoyable for all associated with the Branch. The people of Aldershot should be rightly proud of their support for the Poppy Appeal.



Sadly we have to report that our lovely Membership Secretary, Marg Clout, passed away during the Poppy Appeal after a short illness. Marg was an extremely supportive, ever-present member of the Aldershot Royal British Legion, always lighting up the room when she came in.

Marg was always willing to help anyone and nothing was ever too much trouble. We all have many happy memories of Marg - at the Arboretum, the coffee mornings, weekends away and of course poppy selling which she loved. Memories we will always cherish. She will be greatly missed.

[Bordon & District](#)

Bordon & Whitehill held their annual Remembrance Service, organised by the Town Council, on Thursday 11th November, at the Town's Memorial, which as usual well attended, The Weather was glorious for the time of year and we were joined by all the local schools and the Air Cadets.

Various poems were read by the head boy and Girl of Oakmoor School, whilst the children of St Matthews School read poems they had composed, and spoke a little about some of the Servicemen from the Book of Remembrance that they researched.



[Poppy Appeal](#)

[Hampshire Festival of Remembrance](#)

To celebrate the end of the 100th anniversary of the Royal British Legion, the ***Festival of Remembrance*** concert which was due to be performed on Sunday 7 November has been postponed and will now be performed on Sunday

1 May 2022 as ***Hampshire Royal British Legion's Centenary Festival***.

With community at the heart, local musicians & performers will join forces for an evening of wonderful music and commemoration. All ticketholders have been contacted via email and tickets moved to the new performance date in 2022.

Tickets for Hampshire Royal British Legion's Centenary Festival (Sunday 1 May 2022) are on sale at mayflower.org.uk or 02380 711811.

We know that this will be disappointing news, however we feel this is the right decision in the current climate. We explored all options on call today with the mayflower and a postponement felt the best and most sensible solution. On a brighter note, we have secured a new date in May, as we are still in our centenary year, we thought we can celebrate the end of the 100th anniversary and also mark & commemorate the Falklands Anniversary. I'm going to contact all performers and parties/guests this evening before the statement is released tomorrow. Let me know your thoughts,

Clair Smith

CFR Hampshire (S) & The Isle of Wight

[St Catherines View care Home](#)

Community spirit helps grow dementia care home's poppy display

A public display of Remembrance on the frontage of a Winchester dementia care home has been boosted by a community appeal.

The cascade of nearly 800 knitted or crocheted poppies features prominently outside Colten Care's St Catherines View, providing a focal point for the home's residents, staff, visitors and passers-by to reflect on.

Laura Sheldrake, Companionship Team leader at the Stanmore Lane home, invited friends and contacts in the community to contribute their handiwork for what one resident's daughter has described as a 'moving and beautiful' display.

Laura said: "I wanted to make a display outside our home this year and knew I needed lots of poppies to make it work, so I put out a plea on Facebook for anyone who would be able to knit or crochet poppies for us to use.

"One Winchester lady Mo White knitted nearly 300 poppies alone, an incredible amount. I think

she was starting to knit them in her sleep at the end.

“We also thank city residents Melanie Etheridge and Zara Coleman who knitted and crocheted over 100 each.”

Poppies started arriving not only from Winchester but also neighbouring Chandler’s Ford.

The combined total, including those from the community and those made by St Catherines View residents and staff, was 795.

Laura added: “I was not expecting so much interest and so many poppies to be made by local residents.

“It took a few weeks to attach all the poppies but once it was done and put up it was worth all the hard work everyone put into it.

“We had a silhouette of a soldier that our maintenance person Trevor Warder cut out by hand and painted black. We think it finished off our display perfectly.”

Chris George, Chairman of the Royal British Legion’s Winchester Branch, saw Laura’s appeal, offered to spread the word about it and came to see the display personally once it was put together.

Chris said: “On behalf of my branch, I would like to thank Laura for all the hard work and effort she has put into making such a wonderful display.

“It is important that everyone has the opportunity to remember, and Laura has made sure that has happened for the residents at St Catherines View.

“I would also like to thank the wider community of Winchester for coming together to help create such a beautiful display. I look forward to working with Laura and St Catherines View in the future.”

After posting images of the display online, Laura received more than 1,000 Facebook likes and particular congratulations from the daughter of a St Catherines View resident who said: “I saw this today at my mother’s care home. It was both moving and beautiful. Thank you.”

As well as St Catherines View, Colten Care’s 20 other care homes across the south have been holding services and poetry readings for Remembrance season.

Poppy displays have been created at homes including Abbey View in Sherborne and Outstanding-rated Amberwood House in Ferndown.

Abbey View residents also travelled by minibus to Sherborne Abbey to observe the two-minute silence at 11am on 11th November.

And residents at Brook View in West Moors produced a wreath to take to a Remembrance service held by the Dorset village’s parish council. Among other Colten homes hosting Remembrance events were The Aldbury in Poole and Outstanding-rated Kingfishers in New Milton.

Notices

Hampshire Link Editor

It is an honour to announce that Dudley Wall, of the Kingsclere Branch will be taking over the editorship of the Hampshire Link, the County Newsletter from January 2022.

Please continue to show your support by sending articles to him at the hampshirelink@outlook.com email address as normal.

Christmas Message

The County Team would like to wish every member of Hampshire County RBL a very Merry Christmas and a Safe New Year.



Final Farewell

I would like to thank everyone who sent me good wishes as I hand over the Hampshire Link to a new Editor, and wish Dudley every success in the future.

Merry Christmas to you all and have a Happy New Year – **Darron Back**

With new Covid-19 restrictions coming in, all Branches are requested to ensure meetings are held in a safe environment, and respect any members wishes for social distancing and masks.

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.poppys.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

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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

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