

Edition Date: April 2022

## We will remember them

To all whom we have lost this month. Our sincere condolences to family and friends.

*Our mission is to safeguard the welfare, interests, and memory of those who are serving or who have served in the Armed Forces*

## Message from our County Chairman

The Hampshirelink is an important information resource available to all Legion members in Hampshire and beyond, containing notices from County officials and national Legion news, contributions and articles from Branches in Hampshire and many interesting entries related to historical events in Hampshire. Our emagazine is edited by Dudley Wall who is new in post and needs your support to make each edition as interesting and informative as possible.

I call on all Branch officials and members to submit news about forthcoming Branches events, be they for fundraising or remembrance and to submit articles on all things Legion including local veteran's personal experiences and histories.

This is your publication, edited by a member of your County and without your input the Hampshire Link will not be what it is.' Tim Russell

## Editorial Comment

In this editorial comment I would like to say a very big thank you to those who have supplied articles, photos, adverts and news from their branches. It is appreciated and makes the newsletter truly a County effort. I would also like to let everybody know that the original email address to make contact with the newsletter has been shut down and is no longer in operation. It was inundated by spurious messages and spam from far off and exotic locations and even more exotic people who seem to have the strangest requests!

The contact email address is on the last page of the newsletter. It is [HampshireLinkDW@yahoo.com](mailto:HampshireLinkDW@yahoo.com)

Please continue to send in your news, articles and obituaries.

## Quote of the month

**"Don't find fault, find a remedy."  
Henry Ford**

## Membership of the RBL

Membership is the lifeblood of the Royal British Legion and particularly the branches. Our members are the most important asset the RBL has. Without our members, the organisation is nothing, and nothing will be achieved. We have a vital role to play in supporting our armed forces, veterans and their families. Not all members wish to be active but they still contribute by way of membership fees. However, those who do want to contribute, offer their time and their talents to so. Many of our members are of an age where they can no longer contribute physically but they do by way of membership fees.

Others contribute by holding office at branch level. This is much appreciated but we do not always thank them enough. Instead the few get volunteered by the majority to keep on going. We need more participation from our youth and David Lloyd's article on the Petersfield branch, in this edition is a great way of getting them involved. Well done to them.

## Know the medal 1918 - 1962 General Service Medal



This medal was awarded for service in campaigns and operations that were considered not to be full scale warfare. There are six versions, each with a different effigy of the Monarch on it. It excludes those operations in Africa and India because there are separate Service Medals for those areas.

There are 18 different clasps to this medal. The last one being Canal Zone which was introduced in 2003 for service between 1951 and 1954.

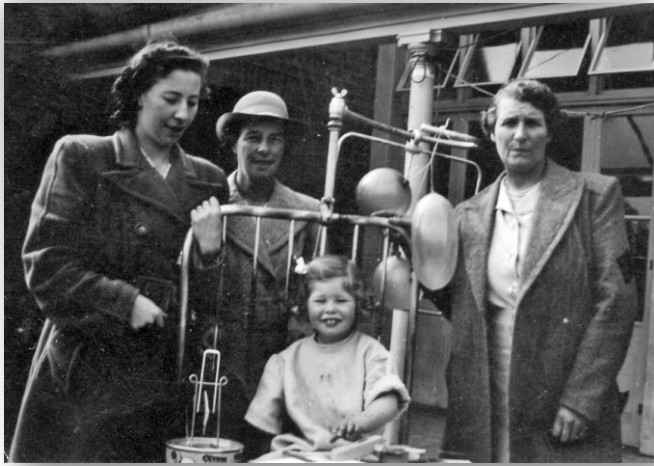
The medal at right is named to an African soldier - 4914 Private Nyikavaranda, who served with the Rhodesian African Rifles in Malaya.

## In Remembrance

Earl Mountbatten Memorial Branch.  
Lovedean & Horndean Branch.  
RBL Riders Branch.

### Tribute to Brenda Doreen Cox

Below is a photo of Brenda in her hospital bed at Lord Mayor Treloar's Hospital at Alton taken in 1948. The Hospital for sick and crippled children set up by Lord Mayor Treloar and his wife. Brenda was a patient in the Hospital having contacted Polio in 1947 which affected her legs and spine. The doctors did not expect her to walk but thanks to their work and Brenda's self determination she overcame many problems to have a normal life despite being disabled due to Polio.



In 1963 she met Pete, who was serving in the RAF. Love blossomed and they married in October 1966. Brenda now became the wife of a serviceman and supported Pete throughout his 27 years of RAF. During those years she never complained once or asked for special treatment even though her disability restricted her. Brenda joined the RBL in 1981 along with her husband Pete and in those days she was able to walk but often fell over. However, many RBL people in recent years will have seen her using a wheelchair and always with a smile on her face. She was involved with many RBL links over the years.

In 1994 Brenda volunteered to become the Secretary of the newly formed Lovedean and District (Women's Section) Branch. A post she held for 26 years until the Branch closed in 2020 due to her ill health and lack of Branch Officers. Brenda then gave her support to the Lovedean and Horndean RBL Branch. In 2001 she joined the Earl Mountbatten Memorial Branch and very soon became a very active committee member. The branch members were very pleased that Brenda was able to return to attend their branch meeting on the 5th March this year after the pandemic restrictions.

When husband Pete joined the RBL Riders Branch, Brenda also joined, remembering the fun they had with motorbikes in their earlier years. Brenda was soon accepted by the

Riders and helped raise funds for the Poppy Appeal. Many of the Hampshire Riders will admit to owning a very colourful woolly hat knitted by Brenda and the Poppy Appeal gained considerably.

However, Brenda was taken ill last August and rather going to Hospital the NHS supplied a bed so that she could stay at home with Pete. Then, carers would arrive in the morning to wash and dress her and lift her out of bed with a hoist into a chair. In the early evening the carers would hoist her back to bed again as she was unable to stand or walk. During the day Pete was able to use the hoist to lift her into her wheelchair and then put her in the back of his wheelchair accessible car, so the Polio limitation had finally made Brenda's life very difficult. On the 14th February Brenda was not feeling very well and the Doctor sent her to hospital for some treatment. Sadly, the treatment did not work as expected, and she passed peacefully away on the 19th February with husband Pete by her side. Her funeral was held on the 11th March and 25 plus bikes and trikes from the RBL Riders Branch proudly escorted Brenda and her family from their Widley home to Havant Crematorium. Also present at the service were members of the ten different organisations that Brenda belonged to.

Rest in peace Brenda. You certainly demonstrated 'Service not Self' to others.

Heartbroken Peter Cox

Hon. Sec. Earl Mountbatten Memorial Branch.

Hon. Sec. Lovedean and Horndean Branch.

Member RBL Riders Branch.

## Basingstoke Casualties Remembered



The grave of a female soldier by name of Private P. Doyle who served with the ATS during World War Two and died at age 23.



## Branch News

Kingsclere Branch celebrated its 100th anniversary on Sunday the 6th March at a service held at St Mary's Church. At the gathering afterwards a cheque for £1000 was handed over by the branch to County Chairman, Tim Russell, the Hampshire County Welfare Fund. The glass bowl to commemorate 100 years was presented by the mayor of Basingstoke, Councillor Onnalee Cubitt at the previously held branch meeting. Local village photographer, Gareth Martin, was on hand to take some photos.



From left - County Standard Bearer and MSO Pete Pullin, Kingsclere Branch Secretary Jim Sanger, Kingsclere Standard Bearer Trevor Marriner, Gunner Craig Marriner (Trevor's son) and the Branch Chairman Kate Oldershaw.



Hants County Chairman, Tim Russell receiving the cheque for £1000 from Kingsclere Branch Treasurer, Mary Sanger.



The glass bowl presented by the Mayor of Basingstoke.

## Honouring our Veterans

This is for Nick Checkets, a veteran of the RCT, who very kindly pointed out that I had mislabelled the RCT badge in last month's edition of the newsletter.

Apologies!



Nick joined the army at the age of 16 years and went to The Junior Leaders Regiment at Norton Manor Camp, Taunton. He completed his basic training there and was in the Band troop. There was an annual band competition between the junior Regiments and Nick's band won the competition many years in a row that they were asked not to enter one year so somebody else could have a chance! The band won it straight back again afterwards.

Nick passed his motorcycle test on a BSA B40 and did confidence training on the square, riding stood up and just standing with one foot on the footrest. He was then sent to Driffield in North Yorkshire to undergo trade training. He passed his driving test in an air portable Landrover and his HGV3 licence (as it was back then) in a Bedford RL. Nick set the record for passing his test in under 12 hours of instruction. On completion Nick was posted to the RCT Depot and



Training Regiment at Aldershot. As

Nick was in the band, he was posted to the Senior Corps of Drums which fronted the RCT Staff band. Nick had the opportunity to play at The Royal Albert Hall on a couple of occasions and at Wembley Stadium several times. He was deployed on various exercises and this took him away from home for periods of up to nine months. As he wanted to get married he then completed his service.



Helmet plate

Nick runs his own business, doing cosmetic repairs for the construction industry. He is also very involved with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, tending the graves of the Fallen. The photos are of Nick in the Corps of Drums and as Standard bearer for the last parade for Buller Barracks.



Cap and collar badges



## The Royal Navy and the Ukraine

**A**t the time of writing this short article, in mid-March 2022, no one can have the slightest idea how the war in Ukraine is going to pan out, so it is pointless to speculate, but one thing we can be sure of is that the world order is changing, and with it the amount of GDP we spend on defence.

So far Ukraine is largely a land and air war, with some Russian naval posturing in the Black Sea. Given the geography of Europe and its history this is unlikely to change. The UK, however, as Europe's strongest naval power, is in a position to enhance NATO's flanks and has done so. Portsmouth based HMS DIAMOND, probably the world's best anti-air warfare destroyer, has deployed to the Black Sea to assist on NATO's southern flank while the new aircraft carrier, HMS PRINCE OF WALES, ready to embark F35 fighter bombers, Merlin, Chinook and Apache helicopters as well as a range of drones, has deployed to the northern flank as the command ship of a major NATO deployment together with six other Royal Naval ships.



Taken together with the army's enhanced battle group in Estonia and the RAF's augmentation in Cyprus and western Europe, this represents a staged reinforcement of NATO's forward presence operating very much in the spirit of inter-service co-operation. Hampshire, besides being the home of the Royal Navy, also houses its Fleet headquarters at Portsmouth, as it does the Army's headquarters at Andover. The only main, naval, element missing in Hampshire is the deterrent, Trident, and let us hope and pray that Putin's nuclear threats don't require its engagement.

Written by Cdre Peter Melson CVO CBE RN. President, Droxford and District Branch

## The Ukraine War and the RBL

**T**he Ukraine - Russia war is now several weeks old and over four million people from Ukraine have crossed the borders into Poland, Hungary and Romania, creating a European refugee crisis not seen since World War Two. Towns and cities in Ukraine are suffering as a result of the incessant shelling of civilian targets such as homes, hospitals and civic buildings. Thousands of people on both sides have been killed.

Readers may ask why this is mentioned in this newsletter. The reason is that it affects every single person living in Great Britain. It has affected the prices of everyday commodities as well as the morale of the nation. Despite the fact that the British government has prohibited British service veterans from volunteering to go to help the Ukraine, many have done just this. The Ukraine government have set up a Foreign Legion unit under command of the Ukrainian armed forces and has invited veterans and volunteers to serve in the fight for freedom. British serving soldiers have gone AWOL to go and fight in Ukraine.

The question is - how does this affect the Royal British Legion and its role in supporting our armed forces and veterans? If a veteran, who has volunteered to serve with the Ukrainians, gets wounded there, are they still entitled to support from the RBL? Does this also apply to those who are AWOL?

## Protecting Portsmouth harbour during World War Two



Horsesands sea fort, in the eastern Solent, one of three guarding the approaches to Portsmouth harbour, 24 August 1940.



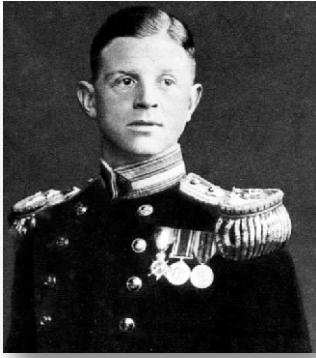
Close up view of one of the guns guarding the approaches to Portsmouth harbour, 24 August 1940.



Sleeping quarters in Horsesands sea fort, in the eastern Solent, one of three guarding the approaches to Portsmouth harbour. 24 August 1940.

All photos are from the Imperial War Museum. Copyright rests with them.

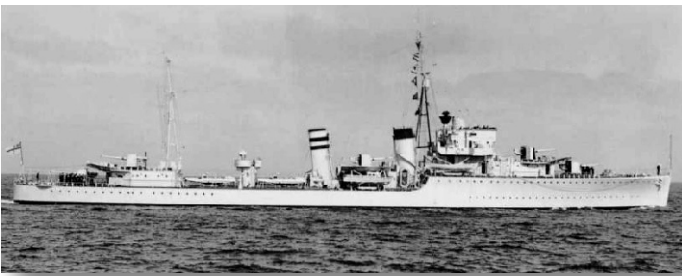
## Remembering the Sons of Hampshire



Captain Bernard Warburton-Lee, Royal Navy was awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross following his gallant action commanding a destroyer flotilla during the 1st Battle of Narvik on 10th April 1940. Prior to this, he lived at Soberton Mill (name recorded on Newtown's war memorial). He is buried

at the Ballangen New Cemetery on the banks of Ofotfjord, near Narvik in Norway with members of his ship's company.

Warburton-Lee was appointed on 28th July 1939 Captain (D) 2nd Destroyer Flotilla and was commander of HMS Hardy. Elements of this flotilla were ordered to protect minelaying operations to hamper enemy shipping in the Norwegian Leads (Operation Wilfred). Germany relied on shipments of iron ore from north Sweden for its war efforts



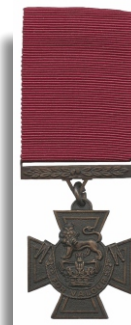
and needed to secure her sea lines of communication via the Norwegian Leads and the Baltic approaches. Germany simultaneously launched Operation Weserübung on 9th April (invasion of Norway) and to secure the port of Narvik with a force comprising 7 army divisions and 22 ships; 10 of which were destroyers carrying 2,000 troops to secure the port of Narvik. Intelligence had indicated that a single German ship and small landing force had been tasked, so Warburton-Lee was ordered to sink the enemy ship and, if possible, recapture Narvik.

Warburton-Lee's force consisted of four destroyers from his flotilla: HM Ships Hardy, Hotspur, Havock and Hunter. HMS Hostile joined them later. Having obtained further intelligence from Tranoy Pilot Station, the flotilla entered Ofotfjord at 0100Z on 10th April and, in snowstorms and poor visibility, proceeded towards Narvik - arriving at 0415Z. Of the 23 merchant vessels at Narvik, eight were German carrying stores for the invasion and five were British already interned by the enemy. At 0430Z, Warburton-Lee in Hardy with Hunter and Havock entered harbour and engaged the German destroyers with guns and torpedoes, destroying two, setting one on fire and disabling two more. During a further sweep, now with Hotspur and Hostile in company, the flotilla destroyed six German merchant ships.

Withdrawing under cover of a smokescreen, the flotilla proceeded back down Ofotfjord only to encounter five more German destroyers. These were much larger than their British counterparts, newer, faster and with heavier armament. Warburton-Lee's flotilla increased speed to 30 knots and engaged the enemy. During the encounter, Hardy and Hotspur were disabled, and Hunter sunk whilst two of the German ships were damaged. Both sides withdrew at 0630Z but, on the way out of the fjord, Hostile and Havock engaged a German ammunition ship which ran ashore and blew up.

Meanwhile HMS Hardy had sustained several direct hits, including one on the bridge which severely wounded Warburton-Lee. His last order to his flotilla (at 0555Z) was "Keep engaging the enemy". Now badly damaged and out of control, Hardy was run aground by Paymaster Lieutenant

Geoffrey Stanning (son of the then Rector of Meonstoke) with her aft 4.7-inch guns still firing. The ship was then abandoned, and 140 men made it to shore including Warburton-Lee who died an hour later.



The Victoria Cross is the highest award for gallantry in the presence of an enemy and takes precedence over all other awards. Due to its exacting criteria, it's frequently awarded posthumously. Warburton-Lee's was the first awarded to only 181 recipients during the 2nd World War. The medal is cast in bronze (allegedly from Russian guns captured at the

Siege of Sevastopol during the Crimean War) with a plain crimson ribbon. Its inscription simply reads:

For Valour

Article from From Rob Scott. Droxford RBL

## Remembering Silchester's men





## 40th Anniversary of the Falklands War continued

The single most important aspect of the Falklands War was the projection of force over a very long distance. This crucial role was in the hands of the Royal Navy (including the Royal Marines and their Harrier squadrons) and the RAF. Royal Navy Command was situated in Northwood, London under the command of Commander-in-Chief, Fleet: Admiral Sir J.D.E. Fieldhouse. The Commander of Task Group 324.3 and Flag Officer Submarines was Vice-Admiral P.G.M. Herbert. For the operation in the South Atlantic the force comprised the following -

A Carrier/Battle Group (Task Group 317.8) and Flag Officer, First Flotilla under command of Rear-Admiral J.F. Woodward (HMS Hermes). An Amphibious Task Group (Task Group 317.0 and Commodore Amphibious Warfare under command of Commodore M.C. Clapp (HMS Fearless). The flagship was HMS Hermes. The ships allocated to the operation included the following -

HMS Hermes. With 800 Naval Air Squadron (12 BAE Sea Harriers), 809 Naval Air Squadron, 4 BAE Sea Harriers absorbed into 800 Squadron), No. 1 Squadron RAF (8



Logistic Landing Ship RFA Sir Tristram



Type 42 Destroyer HMS Sheffield which was lost during the conflict



HMS Hermes leaves Portsmouth for the South Atlantic



Armourers prepare Sea Harrier FRS1 of No 801 Naval Air Sqn flight deck of HMS Hermes. The bombs are 1000-lb Iron bombs

Hawker Siddeley Harrier GR.3), 825 Naval Air Squadron (4 Sea Kings), 826 Naval Air Squadron (12 Sea Kings), 846 Naval Air Squadron (6 Sea Kings). HMS Invincible in the South Atlantic, with 801 Naval Air Squadron (8 BAE Sea Harriers), 809 Naval Air Squadron (4 BAE Sea Harriers absorbed into 801 Squadron) and 820 Naval Air Squadron (10 Sea Kings).

A total of sixteen destroyers were deployed for the campaign. Of these, six were equipped with both surface to surface and surface to air missiles (SAMs). The rest had SAMs and their main guns and ASW armament. There was a total of eight Type 21 frigates and two Type 22 frigates. There were many Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessels involved and several ships were taken up from trade. To mention each participating vessel by name would take up several pages. The fact is that the Royal Navy bore the brunt of casualties and displayed enormous courage as part of a joint operation to ensure success.

## Recollections of HMS Plymouth's participation in the Falklands Conflict

In 1980, I was appointed as the First Lieutenant, or second-in-command, of HMS PLYMOUTH, a Type 12 frigate, which recommissioned under a highly professional Captain called David Pentreath. He believed in attainment of the highest standards, where nothing less was acceptable, so it was my job to help turn his aim into reality, which seemed a tall order at the time as I hadn't been to sea for nine years, having been a Fleet Air Arm pilot. The Ship's Company consisted of a high proportion of Scots who make great sailors, being tough, resilient and with endless stamina, and who regard coming back from a run ashore with half an ear hanging off as perfectly normal!

The ship went through a standard programme of post-refit sea trials, followed by the infamous six week 'work up' at Portland under Flag Officer Sea Training. Overall, we acquitted ourselves satisfactorily, except for NBCD (Nuclear Biological Chemical Defence) which was continuously assessed as 'below standard', a great irony bearing in mind that, after being hit and badly damaged on 8th June 1982, PLYMOUTH was afterwards held up as THE exemplar of damage control! The next key event was Exercise SPRINGTRAIN, a major exercise involving a large number of warships, which helped to hone our war fighting skills, to be followed by a run ashore in Gibraltar. But we never had our run ashore, instead being tasked to 'head south' because the Argentinians had landed on South

on getting the whole Ship's Company physically fit, believing that physical fitness helps increase stamina and mental alertness. Initially there were considerable mutterings, but later on a few hardened couch potatoes admitted that they felt much better for the exercise taken! Approaching South Georgia, the ship went into the war state of Defence Watches; ie, half the Ship's Company closed up at any one time. Final battle preparations took place, including Naval Gunfire Support in readiness to support operations ashore.

My own final preparations included packing a bag containing some spare clothing and a bottle of rum, just in case we found ourselves in a life-raft at any future stage. The bag was close by in my cabin, as were my clothes, which were always laid out alongside my bunk in order of putting them on, should I have to get up in a hurry. Every night I listened to the late-night shipping forecast with its haunting tune, prior to saying goodnight to my family whilst looking at their photograph, then turning off my light and going to sleep. During all this time, we were aware of the huge shuttle diplomacy efforts taking place between Washington, London and Buenos Aires, but on 20th April we received the order to execute Operation PARAQUAT - the recapture of South Georgia - which resulted in a loud cheer throughout the ship.



Georgia. We took on stores and ammunition to maximum capacity and joined up with HMS ANTRIM and the Royal Fleet Auxiliary tanker TIDESPRING. On passage we carried out war preparations, a hitherto unknown quantity, and practised NBCD exercises, gunnery shoots, had lectures on First Aid and survival, and familiarised ourselves with the Argentinian Naval forces. I also insisted

It seemed that our planned deployment to the West Indies was finally looking very doubtful! Operation PARAQUAT was very exciting and these are some of my memories: - Sending the SAS off in boats. They couldn't quite get the hang of the sea going up and down, and several soldiers got a good dunking in freezing water! I asked them to keep an eye out for red deer when we put them ashore in South Georgia as I liked venison. The following day our Wasp helicopter returned to the ship with an underslung load - a red deer!

I had to lead the Boarding Party for a search of the Argentinian hospital ship BAHIA PARAISO, which was suspected of carrying arms. It was pretty scary clambering up the rope ladder, then anticipating being shot as I climbed over the guardrail. In spite of the boarding party conducting a thorough search, no arms were found.

- PLYMOUTH's ability at naval gunfire support was outstanding. We walked our 4.5-inch shells along the beach, which put the fear of God into the Argentinian troops who promptly took flight. My memories of the main operation to recover the Falkland Islands post South Georgia: HMS PLYMOUTH leading the first wave of landing craft into San Carlos Water on an eerily still early





morning, then watching tracer fire arcing away up in the hillside. Shortly after dawn, being attacked by wave after wave of Argentinian aircraft, one of which we shot down with our Seacat missile system and 20mm Oerlikon guns.

By day, being at Action Stations in San Carlos Water, contributing to the enormous weight of firepower as courageous Argentinian pilots hurtled in over the water very fast and very low. By night, either conveying merchant ships in and out of the area, or landing Special Forces or bombarding enemy forces ashore.

- My task as second-in-command included walking continuously round the ship whilst at Action Stations, talking to the ship's company and keeping them on their toes. There was a need to ensure that everyone wore their anti-flash hoods and gloves correctly, which was often not the case. Any miscreants were fined 10p which was put in a RNLI model lifeboat I always carried with me. Subsequently, the RNLI received a sizeable cheque!

June 8th - a day never to be forgotten. I was the Officer of the Watch on the bridge from 0400- 0800 and recall passing RFA SIR GALAHAD at around 0600 going in the opposite direction. Later that day, we were ordered to leave the 'safety' of San Carlos Water - being out in open water during daylight was generally considered an absolute 'no no' - to bombard an enemy Observation Post which had been set up on Mount Rosalie on West Falkland. Suddenly five Mirages were spotted, so the Captain ordered 'full speed ahead'. We fired everything we had, shooting down the lead Mirage with a Seacat missile and another with 20mm cannon. The ship was hit by four 500 lb bombs, none of which exploded due to them having been released too close for the bombs to have armed before they hit the ship. We were also peppered with cannon fire. One of bombs, despite not exploding, hit one of our helicopter's

depth charges which was sitting on the flight deck, causing it to explode, resulting in a huge fire below decks. I had been lying down in the main passageway when the order came to 'hit the deck' but, after half a minute or so, decided that if I was going to be killed, I'd rather be looking at the sky than at grey deck tiles, so I reached the bridge just as the bombs and cannon fire hit the ship. One gunner came running out of the turret, having been hit by shrapnel, and ran up to the bridge, clearly very frightened. I remember getting him on to the deck then telling him everything was ok. After that, events moved at lightning speed. The Damage Control Headquarters had been put out of action because of massive quantities of smoke which filled the ship, so I had to organise firefighting and damage control initially myself. I

have always felt that the hero of the day was the Petty Officer Stoker who directed the firefighting sailors into the inferno - they were clearly more scared of him than of the flames! Despite being badly damaged, PLYMOUTH was superbly patched up by MV STENA SEASPREAD and we returned to the fray ready to provide support for the final assault on Port Stanley. However, soon after arriving on the gunline, we heard that white flags were appearing amongst the Argentinian forces so, for us, the war was suddenly over. No triumphalism anywhere in the ship, just huge relief that we had survived and would be going home again.

Thanks go to Ian Henderson who wrote this article.



Lieutenant-Commander K Napier points out damage to the Flight Deck Officer (FDO) control position on HMS PLYMOUTH after the Argentinian air attack of 8 June 1982. Lieutenant-Commander Napier was at the FDO control position at the time of the attack.



## RBL Petersfield visit to Churchers College

On March 15th 2022 the Petersfield branch of the Royal British Legion were invited to attend a display by Churchers College Combined Cadet Force and The Petersfield School of various cadet activities. These included Army Signals and Radio procedures, Model making, Aircraft Synthetic Trainer, Orienteering, Drumming and Weapons Training.



The participating group

The RBL met in the Reception Room and comprised of Mark Hayward, Bob Dean, Daz Hare, Chris Paige, James Deane, David Lloyd and Kristina Lloyd and were joined by the CCF Commanding Officer Major Andy Rowley who explained the CCF organisation. The group then moved to the Parade Square where the RSM brought the parade to attention, prior to handing over to the Commanding Officer, who welcomed the RBL and



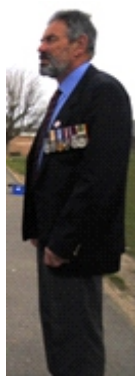
Army Contingent



Royal Navy contingent

explained the purpose of the visit. The group then split up and proceeded to the various activities previously mentioned. It was noted that the Army Signals had superb camouflage as they could not be found!

At 17.30 visitors and CCF re-assembled on the parade square for a photo shoot and a final word of encouragement from Mark Hayward, Vice Chairman of Petersfield RBL. From thence the group retired to the Reception Area for refreshments – culmination of a really enjoyable visit. Article written by David Lloyd, RBL Petersfield branch.



Mark Hayward



Handing over



RAF contingent



Drumming



Model making



Aircraft synthetic trainer



## Old Basing Branch Spring Sale

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION  
Charity No 219279

Old Basing RBL, Crown Lane, Old Basing, RG24 7DN  
Spring Sale 9th April 20PM to 4 PM  
Books, Jigsaws, Bric-a-brac, Toys, Tombola, Cream Teas

Entry £4-50 including cream tea.  
£1 for entry with a tea / coffee  
50P for entry with no refreshment  
All proceeds go to the Royal British Legion



## Hampshire RBL County Golf Pairs

After a two year gap, the Hampshire RBL County Pairs tournament returns to The Army Club, Aldershot on Monday 16th May for the 2022. Branches and Clubs are invited to participate. The golf course is one of the finest in North Hampshire and is close to the home of the British Army and hosts many events for serving personnel. It is situated close to Farnborough airport and is easily accessible from the M3 and Blackwater valley main routes. The course offers a good challenge with its 6300 yd par 71 features which run through gently sloping woodland.

We have secured the military-rate due to our RBL association. the cost is £52.00 per person (£208 per four) and includes coffee and a bacon roll on arrival, 18 holes of golf and ham egg and chips to follow plus a contribution to the prizes. The cost to ARMY CLUB members will be £17 (£68 per four). A raffle for the Poppy Appeal will be held afterwards. The format has changed to a team of four with the best two individual scores in each becoming the best pairing

Tee-offs start from approximately 0930am depending on entry size (entry limited to 8 four-balls). Teams will be notified of their exact tee-off positions nearer the date. There are only a few buggies available on the day and you will need to book before then if you require one 01252-337272 and ask for Vivienne. This is primarily a light-hearted event but the pride of your Branch is also at stake!

The format of play is: Stableford, full handicap (max: gents 24, ladies 30). There will be prizes for the winners and runners up plus awards for the Longest drive, Nearest the pin and N.T.P. in 2. Players are required to dress and behave in accordance with the regulations for most golf courses. Dress for the meal and presentations should be smart casual.

The closing date for entries and receipt of fees is Monday 9th May. Cheques sent early may be post-dated to May 9th. The completed entry form attached must be accompanied by full payment. Cheques should be made payable to - Mr R. J. Bourne, or by bank transfer to R. J and P.A Bourne, NAT WEST Bank, sort code 60-02-49, a/c no. 49389416, using your name and 'golf' as reference. Please send payment and details to - Rick Bourne, County Golf Secretary, 86 Cavalier Road, Old Basing, Hants. RG24 7ET. (07900 648675) or email to [rickbourne@yahoo.com](mailto:rickbourne@yahoo.com)

## RBL Centenary Festival



The RBL Centenary Festival is on 1st May with the excellent Hampshire Constabulary band, RAF, Army and Royal Navy. Come and show your support for our armed forces. Get your tickets now before they sell out!

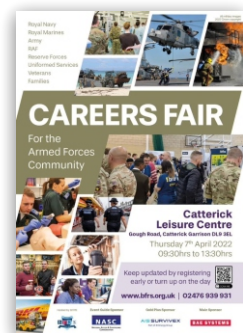
## Charity Race Night

Our North Hampshire Community Fundraiser, Nicola Lawrence, is organising a horse race evening on Saturday 30th April in aid of the RBL. Tickets are £10. Please support this worthy cause to raise funds for the RBL. You can contact Nicola by phone on 07841-576539 or by email at [nicolalawrence1@sky.com](mailto:nicolalawrence1@sky.com) for tickets and further information.



## British Forces Resettlement Services

British Forces Resettlement Services (BFRS) will be hosting a Careers Fair at the Catterick Garrison Leisure Centre on 7th April 2022. It is an opportunity for service personnel to meet with potential employers and Education & Training Providers. BFRS assist serving members of the Armed Forces, Reservists, Veterans, and their family members. Individuals can turn up on the day or register via this link: <https://www.bfrss.org.uk/events/684373/>



Use this link to search for employment, attend training courses and add your CV's. [www.bfrss.org.uk](http://www.bfrss.org.uk)



## County Websites

RBL Website:  
[www.BritishLegion.org.uk](http://www.BritishLegion.org.uk)

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

Facebook Page  
[www.facebook.com/groups/hantscountyrbl/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/hantscountyrbl/)

Facebook - Email  
[Hampshire.web@rbl.community](mailto:Hampshire.web@rbl.community)

Poppy Appeal  
[www.facebook.com.poppy.HamsphireRBL](http://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 with any information or articles by the 20th of the month at:

[HampshireLinkDW@yahoo.com](mailto:HampshireLinkDW@yahoo.com)

## ALL LEGION INQUIRIES

(including Welfare requests)

Should be directed to the national call centre

**0808 802 8080**

## County Personnel

Patron Lt Gen Sir Mark Mans KCB CBE DL

County President Col Andrew King

County Vice President Brian C.N. Soffe

County Vice President Robert G Knight

Chairman Tim Russell [Hampshire.Chairman@rbl.community](mailto:Hampshire.Chairman@rbl.community)

Vice-Chairman Robert Bartlett [Hampshire.vicechairman@rbl.community](mailto:Hampshire.vicechairman@rbl.community)

Treasurer Ges Brown [hampshire.treasurer@rbl.community](mailto:hampshire.treasurer@rbl.community)

Training Officer Mike Davis [Hampshire.CTO@rbl.community](mailto:Hampshire.CTO@rbl.community)

Recruitment Officer A Knight [Hampshire.CRO@rbl.community](mailto:Hampshire.CRO@rbl.community)

MSO - Pete Pullin [ppullin@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:ppullin@britishlegion.org.uk)

Membership Council Rep Gerry Nunn [GNunn@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:GNunn@britishlegion.org.uk)

Hampshire Clubs Support - Paul Holyoake [hampshire.clubs@rbl.community](mailto:hampshire.clubs@rbl.community)

Area Manager SW - Vacant

Branch Support – - Vacant

Youth Officer Steve Slack [Hampshire.CYO@rbl.community](mailto:Hampshire.CYO@rbl.community)

Chair - Conference Committee Brian Mansi

CFR – Manager SW Claire Peppiatt

CFR – Hampshire North Nicola Lawrence

CFR – Hampshire South & IoW Claire Smith

Communications Support Avril Mitchell [Hampshire.Web@rbl.community](mailto:Hampshire.Web@rbl.community)

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Errors and Omissions Excepted