



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



Edition: 1st May 2017

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

None Reported

Our Sincere Condolences to Family and Friends

National News

Data Protection Fine

Members of the public and the RBL may have heard that the Royal British Legion, along with a number of other charities, was recently fined for breaching data protection laws, the full story is on the BBC website: www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-39502258

Mr James Dubrey, RBL National PR officer released the following statement:

'We have accepted a fine from the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for contraventions of aspects of the Data Protection Act. No donor's data was lost, sold or compromised in any way and we have invested heavily in our data operations since and are confident that no such contraventions will happen in the future. Donors and fundraisers can be assured that we will continue to help members of the British Armed Forces, veterans and their families while preserving the memory of all those who have served their country.'

Election of the Board of Trustees

The following were elected to the Board of trustees to serve for 3 years with effect from the close of the Annual Conference 2017, unless their tenure ends differently Mrs Denise Edgar, Colin Kemp, Lt Col Joe Falzon OSJ BEM & Rod Bedford. Our own Membership Council rep, Paul Harris QGM, finished just 15 votes short of becoming a member in 5th place. Paul would like to thank everyone who voted for him, and because of the response will consider applying for the position again in the future.

Veteran's Gateway

The Veterans' Gateway has gone live on the MAP homepage, as part of our Gateway Strategy, the Legion is working to make it easier for those we support and use our services by working in collaboration and partnership with other organisations. The Veterans' Gateway is the first step in this journey.

Veterans' Gateway aims to be the first point of contact for veterans or their families seeking information, advice and support.

As the gateway to a network of expert partners – both within and outside of the Armed Forces sector – Veterans' Gateway will connect users with the right support organisation for their needs, quickly and easily. This simplification of the system has been brought about by a consortium of partners working collaboratively and led by the Legion.

The consortium is made up of the Legion, SSAFA – the Armed Forces charity, PoppyScotland and Combat Stress, with funding from The Covenant Fund. Our connection with referral partners such as Shelter, Mind and other specialists allows us to be the gateway to a range of support that veterans and their families might need but struggle to find.

For further details either contact the RBL helpline 0808 802 8080, Veterans' Gateway 0808 802 1212, or the MAP office 365 website.

County News

County Team

Below is the current County team, who are here to offer help and advice to all County Branches whilst acting as the primary interface between Hampshire Branches and the RBL Head Office in Haig House, London.

They can be contacted through the MSO or via the RBL National helpline 0800 802 8080.

Patron: Lt Gen Sir Mark Mans KCB CBE DL; *Sir Mark assumed the role of Patron of The Royal British Legion Hampshire in 2016. As Patron, he provides guidance and support to the principal county officers and officiates at key annual ceremonies. He is also a Deputy Lieutenant of Hampshire and now devotes much of his time to charity work in the military sector. He is a Trustee with the Nuffield Trust for the Forces of the Crown, a Patron of the Veterans in Action charity, a Vice Patron of the Ulysses Trust, and a Champion for the Defence Medical Welfare Service.*

President: Col Andy King: Col King has both a representational and advisory function and to establish useful contacts and bring influence to bear in order to promote the best interests of the Legion within the local community.

Chairman: Simon Goldby: Simon directs all the County activities, ensure the Committee are aware of their responsibilities, encourages membership support of the Poppy Appeal, briefs the committee of on-going issues, chairs the Annual County Conference, visits Branches to meet the membership, and attends the County Chairman's Conference.

Vice-Chairman: Tim Russell: Tim supports the Chairman in the running of the County, and will attend meetings deputising for Simon when required.

Treasurer: Brian Soffe: Brian administers the financial management of the County, including the County Budget. Brian will also assist Branches with RBL financial matters as required.

Membership Support Officer: Chris Bolton: Chris is responsible for providing administrative support and guidance to the County, and the communications link to the Groups and branches and should forward all relevant information to formations within the County. Chris is also the subject matter expert on membership issues within the Area office and deals with branches directly on all aspects of membership administration.

Committee: Pat Prior BEM: Poppy Appeal Co-ordinator (S)
Jackie Gatfield: Poppy Appeal Co-ordinator (N)
Avril Mitchell: Media rep.
Bob Bartlett: County Welfare Rep, Branch Community Support initiative.
Tom Ferguson: Assistant treasurer
Jim McGregor:
Mick Mills:
Ges Brown

All members of the County Committee are there to support the County Chairman, and help all Branches where required, they each take on various responsibilities within the Committee to ensure the smooth running of the County and its Branches.

Parade Marshal: Steve Forward: Organises training of Standards in Hampshire for the RBL and any organisation that has a Standard. Attends parades when a number of Standards are on present to ensure smooth running.

Membership Council: Paul Harris QGM: Paul covers numerous Counties, and is the direct link to the Membership Council for the County Team.

Area Manager: Jim France: Jim is responsible for the overall co-ordination of Legion activities under the four pillars within the Area and for ensuring that the objectives set by Head Office are met and hold responsibility for the administrative support to the Counties/Districts and for co-ordinating information from Head Office to Counties/Districts and vice versa.

County Fund Raisers: Clare Peppiatt (S) & Dave Moore (N); Clare and Dave are responsible for the Poppy Appeal organisers within the County, raising awareness of the Poppy Appeal, organising the Poppy launch in Hampshire, liaising with Corporations to raise awareness of and fund for the Poppy Appeal.

Freedom Trail

We have 16 places left to fill on our Freedom Trail, a 4 day trek through the Pyrenees on 18th – 24th September. The Freedom Trail (‘Chemin de la liberté’) follows one of the toughest WW2 escape routes from Nazi-occupied France into Spain, passing memorials of the fallen along the way. The trek is beautiful and poignant, but is also very demanding and requires a lot of training and fundraising to take part. We’re therefore promoting it early to give participants plenty of time.

Because of the strong military link to the challenge we are particularly looking to attract branches and Legion members, so I wanted to ask whether you would be able to help promote this in any local newsletters or upcoming communications you may have? I have attached a recent advert we placed in Men’s Fitness that could also serve as a printable poster or flyer, so I would be most grateful if you are able to share this with your networks.

Branch News

Eastleigh, Chandlers Ford & District

The Eastleigh, Chandlers Ford & District Branch invite you to visit the National Memorial Arboretum with them on Tuesday 5th September, leaving from the Winchester Park & Ride South (Badgers Farm) just of junction 11 of the M3. Leaving at 8am prompt, the cost is £17.00 per person. Further details from Margaret Bates on Tel: 023 8026 9725.

Petersfield – Normandy Beaches 2017

The Petersfield Branch with some friends travelled to Normandy on 27th March this year, en-route they stopped at Agney Military Cemetery near Arras to lay a wreath in memory of War Poet 2nd Lt Phillip Edward Thomas (d.09/04/1917) who had lived at Steep, near Petersfield.

The 28th started with a visit to Pegasus Bridge, location of the famous parachute landing and Operation “Deadstick”, this was followed by visit to Sword, Gold and Juno Beaches and the Canadian D-Day museum.



The 29th was a visit to Ranville War Cemetery to lay a wreath in memory of Pte Ronald Geoffrey Knight, 8th Battalion, Parachute Regiment (d.20/08/1944) who was from Petersfield, continuing onto the Memorial museum of the Battle of Normandy and thence to Bayeux to see the Tapestry.

The 30th was a visit to the German Friedhof Military Cemetery en-route for St Maire Eglise, the American museum, Omaha & Utah beaches and the American cemetery, before returning to Petersfield on the 31st March.

More pictures are available if you would like to see, just contact the Hampshire Link for more details.



Milford on Sea

The Milford on Sea are hosting **A Salute to India** event on Friday 16th June to celebrate India’s 70th Independence Anniversary, this will be a 3 course Indian style dinner with entertainment provided by Legion members and their friends, starring “The Flowers of the Desert”. Poster for the event and application form for tickets can be found attached to this Newsletter, for further details please contact Sally on 01590 642917 (after 6pm)

Winchester & District -Appeal for Help

Winchester and District Branch have a two-day event booked at the Alresford Station on Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th June from 10-5pm. It would appreciate any help they can get. Please contact the Secretary Ruth Harrison on Tel: 01962 881737 If out please leave a message or Email davidandruthharrison@yahoo.com

Totton & Eling

The annual inter-branch Quiz took part on Monday 24th April at the Totton Conservative Club. The Totton and Eling Branch were able to form 2 teams and teams from Lyndhurst and Copythorne Branches also attended. Unfortunately, Brockenhurst were unable to take part this year. After 7 rounds of questions Totton were declared the winners. Thank you to Totton Branch member Dave Taylor for organising the event and to everyone who attended. Picture shows Totton and Eling Branch President Rodney Hawkins presenting the Winner's shield to Totton Treasurer Chris Compton.



Brockenhurst – ANZEC Day



The annual Commemoration Service for the 94 ANZACs who lie at rest in the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery in St Nicholas Churchyard, Brockenhurst took place at 2:45pm on Sunday 23 April. The Vicar, Revd. Neil Smart, conducted the Service and the New Zealand Deputy High Commissioner, Mr David Evans, was the principal Guest. Flight Lieutenant Lachie Johnston RNZAF and Lieutenant Matt Hudson RAN represented their respective New Zealand and Australian Defence Forces. Mr Les Kibble, Regional Co-ordinator for the South East, represented the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. 2017 is the Commission's Centenary year.

This year for the first time a wreath was laid on behalf of the QARANC Association acknowledging the role that the hospital nurses played a century ago. Posies were placed on all the graves by uniformed youth groups from the village aided by the RBL President's grand-daughter, Paige, and the three youngest members of the visiting Holdaway family, Kieran, Liam and Lola. Their mother Alita is a New Zealander and her great grandfather, Percy Meek, lies at rest in St Nicholas' Churchyard. This year the Vicar told the tales of three of those who died of wounds received during the battle of Passchendaele in 1917 and who now lie buried in this War Graves Cemetery.



During Tea in the Tile Barn Centre's ANZAC Room the RBL Chairman presented the four principal guests each with a copy of Clare Church's authoritative history of the ANZAC graves – the book from which the Vicar chooses the three names to include in his address each year. After the event David Evans wrote:

"I just wanted to send you a message of thanks for yesterday. It was a wonderful service, a beautiful setting, and the commitment and continuing engagement of the Brockenhurst community to the memory and story of the No 1. New Zealand General Hospital was truly moving. I was made to feel very welcome."

Poppy Appeal

National Total: £43,677,017.40

Hampshire North: £742,224.44

Hampshire South: £846,003.31

Hampshire Total: £1,588,227.75

Totals as of 1st April 2017

Events Diary

Date	Title	Location	Contact
8 th May	Golf Pairs	Army Golf Club, Aldershot	Rick Bourne
13 th May	Plant sale & Coffee Morning	Jack Morris Hall RG24 7DN	Old Basing RBL
29 th May	Donkey Derby	Farnborough	Farnborough RBL
11 th June	Fete	North Camp Village	Farnborough RBL
16 th June	A Salute to India	Milford on Sea	Sally – 01590 642917 (after 6pm)
21 st June	County Committee Meeting	Farnborough	MSO – Chris Bolton
5 th September	National Memorial Arboretum	Winchester	Margaret Bates – 023 8026 9725 £17.00 per person

If you have any organised events that you would like to inform the County about please contact the Hampshire Link with the details, along with costs, location and a contact.

Standard Bearers

Standard Bearer Training

Our County Parade Marshal, Steve Forward, would like to invite all Standard Bearers to partake in training sessions to ensure that they are kept current, Steve puts a lot of his own time in helping Standard Bearers from all organisations not just the RBL so please come along and support him.

Pavilion on the Park
1 Kingsfisher Road
 GSO50 9LH
Sundays

14 May, 11 Jun, 9 Jul,
 13 Aug, 10 Sep, 8 Oct

Drill Hall
Lymington
 SO41 3RU
Mondays

15 May, 12 Jun, 10 Jul,
 14 Aug, 11 Sep, 9 Oct

There now is the facility to conduct Standard Bearer training in Aldershot, and the County Parade Marshal, Steve Forward, would like to hear from any Standard Bearer in the north of the county who would like to attend training there, (stevemo@stevemo.plus.com) or contact the Area office. If the cost of travelling to and from Standard Bearer Training is a problem, as it is classed as a RBL course/activity then expenses can be claimed back from Branches and on a case by case basis, the County can assist with expenses, so please don't let that be a stumbling block to attending courses.

Contact Us

IT`S YOUR NEWSLETTER!!!

If anyone has any articles they would like to see published in the newsletter then please contact the editor at:

HampshireLink@Outlook.com

Or Send to

Editor – Hampshire Link
15 Champney Close
Whitehill, Bordon
Hampshire
GU35 9DX

(Please ensure correct postage paid for)
By the 26th of the month

Almost anything will be considered for inclusion from Jokes to tips, remarkable personal achievements and Branch events. Even adverts will be accepted.

ALL LEGION ENQUIRIES
(including Welfare Request)
Should be directed to the contact centre
0808 802 8080

Patron – *Lt Gen Sir Mark Mans KCB CBE DL*
President – *Col Andrew King*
Chairman – *Simon Goldby*
Vice-Chairman – *Tim Russell*
Membership Support Officer - *Christopher Bolton*
Membership Council Rep – *Paul Harris QGM*
Area Manager – *Jim France*
Community Fundraiser South – *Clare Peppiatt*
Community Fundraiser North – *Dave Moore*

Area Office:
104 Above Bar Street
Southampton
Hampshire
SO14 7DT

RBL Website:
www.BritishLegion.Org.Uk
County Website:
<http://counties.britishlegion.org.uk/counties/hampshire>
Facebook Page
www.facebook.com/groups/hantscountyrbl/

Registered Charity Number: 219279.

Secretaries - please ensure that this Newsletter is circulated amongst your members, or if you know a Branch that has not received the Newsletter then get them to contact me. If I am not able to send it electronically, then I will post a copy to the Branch Secretary.

Membership documents can be found at the following website:
<http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/membership/already-a-member/membership-documents/>

Login: **memhandbook**
Password: **TRBLmem£86**
All RBL members should be given this website and password