



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



Edition: July 2017

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

To all those that have passed

Our Sincere Condolences to Family and Friends

**The Hampshire Link is published for the benefit of ALL members of the County
and should be given the widest circulation as possible.**

National News

Great Pilgrimage 90 (GP90)

In August 2018, the Legion's membership – every county, branch and standard – will be asked to assemble for a Remembrance tour of The Somme and the Ypres Salient.

GP90 - The Biggest Membership Event in Our History

Great Pilgrimage 90 (GP90) will be a modern recreation of the 1928 pilgrimage. On the 8 August 1928, the original pilgrims marched in solemn salute to the Menin Gate in Ypres under the watchful gaze of the Prince of Wales, then the Legion's Patron, to mark the 10th anniversary of the start of the "Last 100 Days Offensive", which – later that year – led to the signing of the Armistice. On the 8 August 2018, it will be the Legion's contemporary membership that will proudly carry their Standards along that very same route in Ypres.

How is Participating in GP90 Going to Help Your Branch

This will be the largest membership event in the history of the Legion and presents a huge opportunity for branches to work collaboratively within their local communities; raising the profile of the branch, inspiring the commitment of our current membership and encouraging the recruitment of others.

Attendees will take part in a full two-day programme of visits to battlefield memorial sites, trenches, cemeteries of The Somme and the Ypres Salient, as well the parade on 8 August to the Menin Gate. The tour will be in the comfort of coaches, each accompanied by a battlefield tour guide,

Register Your Branch

We are inviting two members from every Legion branch to take part in GP90. The cost per branch is £1,000, to cover all transport costs, food, accommodation and travel insurance.

Once register, the Branch will be contacted within 2 days for the payment of £1000, which is non-refundable unless the Board of Trustees takes a decision not to proceed

The Legion is hoping that the Standards of all counties and branches will be on display at the Menin Gate next year – each representing the history and the contribution of those from their community that gave so much in war, and in the years, that followed. Today, as you read this, we are asking each Legion member to positively encourage their local branches to commit their participative support for this special membership event.

For more information and to register your branch please visit: www.rbl.org.uk/gp90

Festival of Remembrance 2017

Branch secretaries should have received a copy of the application form for RBL members to attend this year's Festival of Remembrance. Please remember Branches are only entitled to 4 tickets, and they are for RBL Members and immediate family member or carer. Tickets cost £10 each and deadline for applications is 29th August 2017. Priority should be given to those members that have NOT attended in the past.

County News

Annual Accounts

It is time for Branch treasurers to start thinking about the Branch Annual Accounts, and ensure that when you submit your paperwork it includes the Bank Statement, for each account held, showing the balance as of 30th June. The Accounts then should be signed off by the Branch Committee, **do not wait for the Branch AGM**, and forwarded to the Area Office by 30th September at the **very latest**. Please do not wait until the very last minute to submit your accounts, as soon as you have the Bank Statement, then please submit the accounts. The RBL promotes the use of Branch Independent Examiners and if you would like to use the facility contact the MSO, who will put you in contact. If you believe you will trouble meeting the deadline, then contact the MSO as soon as possible.

The County, and RBL in general, must have the Accounts submitted to the Charity Commission by a certain date to be compliant with Charity Laws, Branches are reminded that failure to submit accounts in a timely manner will result in the Branch unable to select members for election to County Officer roles, unable to send delegates to the National Conference and unable to send delegates to the County Conference, who would vote on matters pertaining to the County.

Branch Community Support

The Branch Community Support (BCS) system has now been up and running in the County for a while now, but only 11 Branches out of 63 in the County are currently using the system. BCS is a way of tracking the Branch Welfare support so that the National team can approach Government, and the Charity Commission with actual facts on what Branches are doing and therefore provide MORE and BETTER support to Branches.

There are a lot of Branches within the County who are carrying out Welfare matters, looking after aged members in care home etc. but the Legion has no idea on who is doing what, and that is what BCS is all about. There is no fundamental way Branches have to change the way they carry out Welfare support, it is mainly the Recording of the details that have change. The County Welfare team have put together a presentation about BCS and the new Veterans Gateway, and will be approaching all Branches in the County to get them signed up.

Independent Examiners (IE's)

The County are looking for more Independent Examiners to carry out audits of Branch accounts, as we have very few to call upon at the moment. IE's are very important as they have been trained to look at accounts with Charity law in mind, which a lot of accountants will check to ensure the figures all add up, but may not check to ensure that Charity Law on expenditure has been fulfilled correctly.

To attend a IE course, the candidate must have attended and passed a branch Treasurers Course s a minimum, but preferably has held the role of Treasurer at some point as well, they must also be able to use LOMAS.

If you are interested then please contact the County Treasurer for more details via the Area Office.

County Committee Vacancies

The County Committee currently only has 9 members and are actively looking to co-op some new members, the Committee meets every 2 months, at either the Area Office, Old Basing RBL Club or the Civic offices in Farnborough on a rotational basis. Please if you are interested in helping shape the County, have ideas that drive the County and Branches forward in the future, consider a place on the team. If you are interested then please put your name forward to a member of the county team, contact the Editor of the Hampshire Link, or contact the Area Office for more information

County Welfare Fund

The County Welfare fund is there to support members of the Armed Forces, Veterans and their families in Hampshire, and as such require constant donations. Some Branches are holding large deposits in their accounts and they should seriously consider donating excess funds to the County Welfare fund so that the money can be put to good use supporting our beneficiaries, Branches should only be holding enough money to ensure the day to day running of the Branch.

Branch News

Petersfield



Petersfield held its Armed Forces Day with 3 Flag raisings, Penns Place (East Hampshire District Council) Petersfield Festival Hall and St Peter's Church. Members of Petersfield RBL, the Town Council and members of the public were in attendance on Monday 19th June for the flags to be raised at 11am.



Earl Mountbatten Memorial Branch

The annual memorial service for Earl Mountbatten will take place on Sunday 10th September at Romsey Abbey. The service will be conducted by the Vicar of Romsey, the Revd Tim Sledge, and will commence at 3pm.

Standards will assemble outside the Abbey at 2.45pm to await the arrival of the official guests. All members of the RBL in Hampshire are invited to attend along with the Branch Standard.

A return has been attached to the Hampshire Link, and the Parade Organiser requests all Branches complete and return the proforma even if the Branch is not attending, the returns should be with Brian Soffe, by no later than 31st August, if you require more information then please contact the Hampshire Link or Brian (Contact details on the Proforma)

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

9 Jul, 13 Aug, 10 Sep, 8 Oct

Drill Hall
Lymington
SO41 3RU
Mondays

10 Jul, 14 Aug, 11 Sep, 9 Oct

There is scope for Standard Bearer training to be undertaken in the North of the County, so if you would like a course to be run, then contact the County Parade Marshall, Steve Forward, to make arrangements. Steve puts a lot of his own time into training and therefore if you ask for a course to be run then please attend.

Events Diary

Date	Title	Location	Contact
7 th July	Women at War	National Memorial Arboretum	Women100@britishlegion.org.uk 020 3053 7216
8 th July	Bale of Passchendaele Commemoration	Lymington (SO41 9AD)	01590 670 042
9 th July	Charity Match	Eastleigh Football Club	4pm Kick off, £3 Admission
12 th July	Lost Plays of WW1	Kings Theatre, Southampton	Katrina 02392 852218
15 th July	Beer Festival	Jack Morris Hall, Old Basing (RG24 7DN)	2pm till late
20 th July	The Malayan Emergency 1948-1960	Museum of Army Flying	www.armyflying.com/events 01264 784421
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.

Notices

The Malayan Emergency 1948-1960

Malaysia's undeclared wars will be the subject of two informative and illustrated talks at the Museum of Army Flying in June and July. The lectures, called *The Malayan Emergency 1948-1960* and *The Indonesian Confrontation 1962-1966* respectively, will be presented by Stuart Wakefield who has given talks on the subject at Malaysia's National Museum and military events.

Stuart said: "Modern day Malaysia fought three insurgency wars on its territory for almost the entire period between 1948 and 1989. "The first lecture, considers the Malayan Emergency from 1948 to 1960, in which the British Colonial power lead Commonwealth and Malayan Armed forces against the Communists.

"It will cover the developing counter-insurgency tactics after two years of learning how to fight in the jungle. "The second lecture, considers the Indonesian Confrontation from 1962 to 1966, in which the newly independent Malaysia joined British and Commonwealth forces defending the Borneo border against Indonesian aggressors, which was possibly Britain's most efficient use of tri-service military power in the post National Service era."

Stuart's interest in jungle warfare in SE Asia goes back to the 1960s, and subsequently continued with work in the region, culminating in retirement in Malaysia. He spent fifty years with helicopters – despite never enjoying flying - with significant operational experience of UK and foreign military, head-of-state, oil and gas exploration plus safety system development.

The lecture start at 7pm and take place on Thursday 20 July.

A curry supper is also available from the Museum's Apache Café beforehand from 6pm for £7.50.

Lecture tickets cost £10 and are available from www.armyflying.com/events or by calling 01264 784421.

Lost Plays of World War 1

Katrina Henderson of the Kings Theatre, Southampton is putting on a WW1 project and would like RBL Veterans to attend, it is on Wednesday 12th July. All the local schools and groups who have plays are coming together to create one big group.

Children are free, Adults £5, and there is a free offer for RBL Veterans who attend.

If anyone is interested in attending please can you contact Katrina (02392 852218) – or if you can offer advice on how to arrange for some Veterans from your local area to attend.

Our Purpose

Attached to this copy of the Hampshire Link is the A5 booklet that is available for Branches showing what the RBL is about and how it helps people, if the booklet is not available from the Poppy Village, then speak to a member of the County Committee, and they may be able to assist.

Lymington

The Battle of Passchendaele (100 Years, third battle of Ypres, Flanderschlacht and Deuxieme Bataille des Flanders) was a campaign of WW1, fought by the Allies against the German Empire. The Battle took place on the Western Front, from July to November 1917, for control of the ridges south and east of the Belgian city of Ypres in west Flanders, as part of the strategy decided by the Allies at conferences in November 1916 and May 1917.

The Commemoration will take place at the RBL, 22A high Street, Lymington at Midday on Saturday 8th July 2017, all are welcome to come along. The RBL will be open all day and a memorial service with a minute's silence will commence at the memorial wall in the RBL Garden at 12pm. Followed by a re-enactment of this historical event at 1pm.

Old Basing

Old basing will be holding a Beer Festival on 15th July in the Jack Morris Hall (RG24 7DN) from 2pm until late, with free entry to commemorate the Battle of Passchendaele. The local Army Cadet Force have created a timeline of the Battle, and various other activities have been arranged. For more details please contact the RBL at Old Basing.

Annual Conference 2017

Charter Motions & Motions Carried – Responses by the Board of Trustees

Attached to the Hampshire Link is the Board of Trustees responses to the carried Charter Motions and Motions from the Annual Conference 2017, which should be given the widest dissemination as possible.

Event Notification

If your branch is organising any form of Commemorative event, or any other type of event, then please get in contact with the Hampshire Link, Area Office or the Facebook® Page so that we can help publicise your event and allow other Branches to take part.

If you are a small Branch, why not get together with other small Branches and undertake a joint venture to Commemorate a historical event or raise money for the County Welfare Fund or Poppy Appeal.

Please could the larger Branches out there contact the local smaller Branches and offer assistance, or asked them to take part with your organised event, this would increase the number of Branches and Members contributing to Legion, and show greater comradeship between Branches.

Appeal for Assistance

Has anyone out there served with Bob Flegg (Aged 92) on board HMS Trouncer or HMS Thane on the North Atlantic Convoys during WW2, he is desperate to contact old ship mates, please either look at the County Facebook page, or contact the Link Editor so your details can be passed to Bob.

Attachments to Hampshire Link July 2017

Annual Conference Resolutions – Trustees Responses

Battle of Passchendaele – Lymington

Battle of Passchendaele – Old Basing

Earl Mountbatten Memorial Branch Service

Our Purpose – Publication



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 – *Vacant*
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 – *Vacant*

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/hantscountyrb/

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/>

The login and password has now been removed from the site, and is no longer required.



EXMOOR 30:30 CHALLENGE

SATURDAY 14 OCTOBER 2017

Have you got what it takes to carry 30lbs of kit over either 30 miles or 30km of Exmoor whilst navigating in poor visibility across rough ground?

The challenge starts and finishes at Memorial Hall, Exford, Somerset, TA24 7PP.

Challenge yourself and raise monies for our Armed Forces community

To book visit rbl.org.uk/get-involved/fundraise/adrenaline-events/exmoor-3030/

Entry: £50 pp, Minimum sponsorship: £250 pp

Email Events@britishlegion.org.uk or call 033 3011 4500

THE ROYAL
BRITISH
LEGION



Registered charity number: 11 9579



Registered with
FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR



CHARITY MATCH
AT EASTLEIGH FOOTBALL CLUB
EX SAINTS vs
ROYAL NAVY SELECT
9TH JULY 2017 4PM KICK OFF.
TICKETS ON THE GATE £3
RAISING MONEY FOR THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



IN SUPPORT OF

