



## We Will Remember Them

*To all the Branches that have lost someone*

*Our sincere condolences to family and friends*

**Secretaries** – *The Hampshire Link is for ALL County Members, so please ensure this newsletter gets the widest distribution within your Branch.*

### County News

#### Annual Branch Committee Return

The Annual Branch Committee Return; MS1, is to be completed and returned to the Area Office by the end of December, to ensure your Branch is compliant with RBL & Charity regulations.

Remember if your MS1 is not returned to the Area office it will affect your ability to send a delegate to the County Conference, and could affect your chances of being given permission to attend GP90.

So please ensure your MS1 is completed on the NEW form that has been sent to you, or download a copy from

<http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/membership/already-a-member/membership-documents/>, also

remember you Standard Bearer is to complete and sign the MS1/B – Standard Bearer Physical Fitness.

#### County welfare Fund

Once again we are appealing to all Branches to contribute in a positive manner with a donation to the CWF. Already, we have received amounts from three branches and trust that you will follow suit.

At the end of June 2016 a total sum of £624,000 was held in the 62 branches and the 6 sub-branches. Much of this sum is idle and indeed over £320,000 was in current or deposit accounts earning less than 0.5% interest. A transfer to the Legion's BFI (Branch Funds Initiative) would

have earned an additional £6,600 for the charity. Only £128,400 was invested in the BFI. The figures are 12 months old and show two things.

1. Too much money does not earn interest.
2. Branches should not be holding on to charity money (unless for a specific purpose). Charity money should be put to use.
3. (Amounts for 2016/17 will not be available until branches have all submitted their Branch Accounts for last year).

So, PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY, for those who are genuinely in need within the Forces Community, in Hampshire.

#### IMPORTANT

Please make ALL cheques payable to "Royal British Legion".

We only have ONE bank account with no mention of "Welfare" - please add either "County Welfare Fund" or "County Voluntary Fund" on the back of the cheque as well as in the covering letter. I can assure you that the money will go where it is intended.

Brian C N Soffe - County Treasurer

### Branch News

#### Ringwood

At the Annual General Meeting of the Ringwood Branch of the Royal British Legion, Mr Brian Mansi was elected as Chairman along with members of the management committee including Julie Keeble who has taken on the role of Branch Secretary.



Retiring after over 10 years as Chairman, Mr Andy Galloway was elected as President.

Speaking before his election Andy said that he was proud of the Branch and its committed committee and membership and congratulated the Poppy Appeal

Organiser Val Aldridge, who along with many volunteers and the support of the local community had raised £28,078.26 in the year ending in September (2017)

Mr Sid Slatter was elected as Life President in recognition of his many years of service to the Branch as member, Chairman and most recently as President.

## Aldershot

The band and Corps of Drums of the RLC will be in concert at the Princess Hall, Aldershot on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November at 19:30hrs, in aid of the Aldershot poppy Appeal.

*Note: In past issues of the Hampshire Link newsletter it was stated that this was the Hampshire Festival of Remembrance. This was in error; this event is in aid of the Aldershot Poppy Appeal. (See poster)*

## Droxford & District

On Saturday night in our village hall we had the premier of an amazing play about the most decorated soldier of WW1.

It is showing in a variety of venues around Hampshire over coming weeks and will be of interest to RBL members.

Henry Tandey VC fought through the entirety of the war. The play, using multi-media and song, effectively tells the story of the war and then the aftermath.

Much to his astonishment Henry discovered he had the chance to change history. He spared a wounded German soldier in 1918 and that soldier turned out to be Hitler. This decision, unsurprisingly, haunted him for the rest of his life.

*Do please alert RBL members to this evening show – it is a moving and educational event which is most timely given the advent of GP 90 and the centenary of WW1. (See attached Poster)*

## Brockenhurst

### Passchendaele Commemoration – 12/10/17

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of October 1917 the New Zealanders sustained their highest number of casualties in one day during the 1<sup>st</sup> World War and so this date was chosen for Brockenhurst's centenary commemoration of the terrible Battle of Passchendaele. 7 of those evacuated to No.1 New Zealand General Hospital in Brockenhurst subsequently died of their wounds and are buried in our Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery. 3 young Brockenhurst men also lost their lives during this battle.

The service format was devised by the Vicar, Rev Neil Smart, and members of the Village World War 100 Committee. First, in St Nicholas Church, three hymns, a poem (read by Di Fletcher) and a bible reading (Councillor Pete Wales) framed brief background information about all of the 10 being commemorated: Richard Williams speaking for the village casualties and Clare Church for the New Zealanders. The Vicar also spoke about Captain Noel Chavasse VC\* descendants of whom were in the congregation. Finally, 2



children from the Primary School senior class lit 15 candles on the altar.

The congregation then moved down to the War Graves cemetery for prayers, the exhortations (RBL President Andrew Roberts), last post and 2 minutes silence and the laying of 4 wreaths on the War Memorial. Poppies were placed on all the graves by the school children. Another poem was read (by Mike Matthews) and the service concluded with the National Anthems of both Britain and New Zealand. Sir Jerry Mateparae – the recently arrived New Zealand High Commissioner in London - his wife Lady Janine and Lieutenant-Colonel Kate Lee were in attendance, Sir Jerry expressed his thanks in both Maori and English.

Back inside the Church refreshments (including ANZAC biscuits) were served amidst a gathering of the Guardians who do duty keeping St Nicholas Church open to visitors every afternoon from April to October. Mike Matthews commented that “this rounded off a thoughtful and moving act of commemoration”



## Recipe of the Month

25g Butter  
1 Medium Onion, chopped  
2 garlic cloves, crushed  
5cm piece of fresh root ginger peeled & grated  
2 tsp Ground coriander  
2 tsp Ground cumin  
1 tsp Ground turmeric  
½ tsp Ground cinnamon  
275g Natural yogurt  
450g Lamb, trimmed & cubed  
50g Cashew nuts  
30ml Fresh chopped coriander  
Cooked rice to serve.

1. Melt butter in a large saucepan and fry onion & garlic until soft.
2. Add ginger & spices and cook for a few minutes.
3. Gradually stir in yogurt, then add lamb, nuts and half the fresh coriander.
4. Cook over low heat for 30 minutes.
5. Garnish with remaining fresh coriander.
6. Serve accompanied with rice.

Alternately, replace the 450g of lamb with 450 g of boneless chicken breast fillet, cubed.

## Standard Bearers

### Training

The 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 into the training of Standard Bearers, not just from the RBL, but other uniformed organisations as well, so please come along and support him.

Training takes place the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month at the Pavilion in the Park, 1 Kingfisher Road, SO50 9LH, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at the Drill Hall, Lyminster, SO41 3RU.

There is scope for training to be carried out at other locations, so if you are interested in arranging a training night please contact Steve at [stevemo@stevemo.plus.com](mailto:stevemo@stevemo.plus.com)



## Notices

### Golf – Texas Scramble

The Hampshire Golf 4-man team Texas Scramble takes place at Greenwood Golf Club on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November. The cost is £120.00 per team (£30 pp) this includes green fee, coffee & bacon roll on arrival, a bar special meal and contribution to the prizes.

There is room for 12 teams only so will be on first come first served. See the attached document – Hampshire Golf Texas Scramble for more details.

### Portsmouth Poppy Launch

The Portsmouth Poppy Launch took place on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October at Gunwarf Quays, attended by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Portsmouth, Standards, Veterans and various Cadet groups.



## *Poppy`s of the Battlefield*

*The poppy seed laid dormant  
In fields that once were mud,  
Trod down by many soldiers  
In trenches that were dug.*

*Every day was long and hard  
Sounds of guns was hard to bare,  
Orders given, on we went  
With comrades we had to share.*

*Progress slow, and sometimes not  
Terrain was living hell,  
Wet feet gave us trench foot  
Others shot, lay were they fell.*

*Walking, running with pack and gun  
"Over the Top" was one to dread,  
Shells exploding all around  
"Look out mate", my God he`s dead!*

*1914-1918 this War took place  
Blood, sweat and tears for victory,  
Thousands died not return to our shores  
Remember them and read the history*

*Let`s not forget the poppy seed  
That waited till the end,  
To grow and flower in thousands  
Now used to remember them.*

© Mr Chris Reed

Written by Chris, whose Grandfather took part and survived the First World War.





# The Band & Corps of Drums of the Royal Logistic Corps



## IN CONCERT



Supported by the Aldershot Royal British Legion  
with all profits to the Aldershot Poppy Appeal.

**THURSDAY 16 NOVEMBER 7.30PM**

Tickets: £12



**Princes Hall**  
Theatre · Aldershot

BOX OFFICE 01252 329155  
[www.princeshall.com](http://www.princeshall.com)

## Events Diary

**2017**

### November

**11<sup>th</sup>** – Armistice Day

**11<sup>th</sup>** – Meet Tommy Atkins – 1930hrs

Phoenix Theatre & Arts Centre

Box Office: 01420 472664

[www.phoenixarts.co.uk](http://www.phoenixarts.co.uk)

£12.00 (£11.00 Forces & Veterans)

**12<sup>th</sup>** – Remembrance Sunday

**13<sup>th</sup>** – Golf Texas scramble

Greenwood Golf Club

£120.00 per team of 4

(See attached form)

**14<sup>th</sup>** – Remembrance Concert

United Reform Church, Romsey

Tickets on the door, or at Information Centre

**16<sup>th</sup>** – Band & Corps of Drums of the RLC

Princess Hall, Aldershot – 19:30hrs

Tickets £12

Box Office: 01252 329155

[www.princesshall.com](http://www.princesshall.com)

**18<sup>th</sup>** – Dance Mix – 11:00-13:00hrs

Farnborough RBL all

Tickets £6.00

Lesley: 01252 615955 or 07936 293967

**2018**

### January

**20<sup>th</sup>** – County Conference – 1000hrs

Jubilee Hall

Bishops Waltham

## 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/)

Poppy Appeal

[www.facebook.com.poppy.hampshirerbl](http://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](mailto:HampshireLink@outlook.com)

Or

Editor – Hampshire Link

15 Champney Close

Whitehill, Bordon

Hampshire

GU35 9DX

**(Please ensure correct postage is paid)**

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 considered

**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>
Chairman	<i>Tim Russell</i>
Vice-Chairman	<i>Vacant</i>
Treasurer	<i>Brian C N Soffe</i>
MSO	<i>Christopher Bolton</i>
Membership Council Rep	<i>Paul Harris QGM</i>
Area Manager SW	<i>Jim France</i>
CFR – Manager SW	<i>Claire Peppiatt</i>
CFR – North	<i>Jim Parker</i>
CFR - South	<i>Sarah Ferris</i>
PAO Coordinator – North	<i>Jacki Gatfield</i>
PAO Coordinator – South	<i>Pat Prior</i>