



## We Will Remember Them

**Mr Norman Brown MBE** – *Eastleigh, Chandler's Ford & District (President)*  
**Brigadier G Atkinson & Mr G Robinson** – *Headley & District*  
**Major General M Callan** – *Liphook,*  
**Mr M Couzens** – *Milford On Sea*

*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.*

### National News

#### Royal Charter

We've been advised to review our royal charter and would like all members to give us their input and guidance. The advice we've been given comes from charity legal experts who have gone through our Charter and concluded that it doesn't follow guidance on what is nowadays considered to be best practice. It isn't as clearly written as it could be, for one thing, and isn't what people would now call 'user friendly'. Is this an opportunity to review and update it?

The Royal Charter is made up of three elements – the Articles, the Rules and the Governing Regulations – the order of precedence for these being outlined in this graphic (right). There are also a number of by-laws and standing orders on various topics. Reading through all the documents, it soon becomes clear that there's significant duplication with sections of our Membership Handbook, while a number of inconsistencies stand out. It's also possible that the documents could be made more flexible, allowing us to serve the Legion's beneficiaries

The survey is now open at  
<https://britishlegion.citizenspace.com/membership/royal-charter-have-your-say>

We will be dedicating two days on Yammer to the consultation where a member of the Project team will be available to discuss with you any issues or questions you wish to raise. These will be

- **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> August, 1000-1500**
- **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September, 1000-1500**

Whilst these events have primarily been created to reach out to the membership of the Overseas and National branches, all are welcome to participate.

Regards  
*Sandra Fruish MBS MSc*  
Assistant Director – Membership

#### GP90 – “Ypres 2018” Scroll

Branches that took part in this years Great Pilgrimage, should have received the Authorisation letter for them to either purchase scrolls or have them fitted to the Branch Standards, without this letter, the 3 approved suppliers have been requested to refuse the purchase.

If you have not received this letter then you should check with the personnel who attended the Pilgrimage, as they should have received the wash-up email.

The approved suppliers are:

**Newton Newton Flags:**

[www.newtonnewtonflags.com](http://www.newtonnewtonflags.com) 01754 768401

**Flagmakers:** [www.flagmakers.co.uk](http://www.flagmakers.co.uk) 01494 783938

**AA Flags:** [www.aflags.co.uk](http://www.aflags.co.uk) 01207 582665

It is the Branch's own responsibility to select their supplier from the list and contact them to arrange a scroll for their Standard. All associated costs are the responsibility of the Branch to pay.

## County News

### County Conference 2019

This is to give advanced notice that the County Conference will take place on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> January at Jubilee Hall, Bishops Waltham, starting at 10.30am.

Branch secretaries will be receiving Notice of Conference together with:

Application forms for:

*Branch Delegate, Motions & Charter Motions to Conference.*

Nomination form for:

*County Committee (7 vacancies)*

*County Conference Committee for 1 year*

*National Conference Committee for 3 years*

*Place of County Conference 2021*

Forms for:

*Shaw or Caper Cup*

*Howard Memorial Cup*

*County President's Shield*

*Business Affiliation Shield*

*Poppy Appeal Cup*

Notice of Conference and the requisite forms can be accessed by Branch Officials on MAP on the Hampshire Page in County Shared Documents/County Conference2019/Forms A-I

Note:

TR Russell, GS Brown, Ms AD Mitchell, BCN Soffe, Mrs PM Prior BEM QVRM & B Mansi are serving members of the County Committee and may NOT be nominated at Conference 2019.

### GP90

For those that attended GP90, I am sure you found it an amazing, inspirational and deeply moving, it is now and forever a mark in Legion history.

However, before GP90 passes into that history, and whilst experiences are still fresh in our minds, we need to capture the key learning from the event; from a membership perspective, so that we can utilise those insights in our future events. After all, 2021 isn't so very far away...

I would be very grateful if all members that attended could let me know what you thought worked well and where things could be improved. What we didn't do that we might have done and what we did, but might have done differently.

Please send your replies to

[hampshire.chairman@rbl.community](mailto:hampshire.chairman@rbl.community)

### Recruitment

Many Branches are struggling to recruit and retain new members within the County, and the Country as a whole; so, the County Recruitment Officer, Pat Prior BEM QVRM, is available to Branches that would like a presentation about Recruitment & Retention within Branches.

For more details about what Pat can do for your Branch contact her at

[Hampshire.cro@RBL.Community](mailto:Hampshire.cro@RBL.Community)

### Training

Further to my previous article regarding training in Hampshire I can now inform the membership of the latest developments. As previously stated we will be holding two Branch Treasurer courses over the weekend of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2018 in the Area Office in Southampton and 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> January 2019 in Farnborough RBL Club. We now also have confirmation of two Branch Management courses to be held over the weekend of 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> December in the Area Office in Southampton and 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> January 2018 in Farnborough RBL Club. It is imperative for members wishing to attend these courses to submit application forms to me so I can forward them ASAP to Membership Training. There are requirements for minimum numbers of attendees on all these courses and failure to prove to Membership Training that we can fulfil these requirements will lead to the courses being cancelled. Given that there has not been any training in Hampshire relating to both Branch Treasurer and Branch Management there should not be any problem attaining the minimum of six candidates for each course required by Membership Training. As a county we should be aiming for all Branch Officers to attend the Branch Management course and all Branch Treasurers attending the Branch Treasurer course. I am aware that there are a number of Branch Treasurers who have other accounting qualifications or have functioned as Branch Treasurers for a number of years, but we should also be aware that there should be plans in place for natural succession as it cannot be expected that persons will remain in position for ever. I would point out that the decision to cancel a course lies with Membership Training and not with the County Committee.

Further to my plans to as soon as possible develop training capabilities within the county to enable us to run our own training thus making things a whole lot simpler and enable all branches within the county to have sufficient trained branch officers to cover all eventualities and provide a good example to other counties as to how we function as a county, we will be developing a small group of Deputy CTO's and Deputy CRO's. Anyone who is interested in supporting the county in one of these roles should contact me at [Hampshire.cto@rbl.community](mailto:Hampshire.cto@rbl.community) with respect to CTO's and Principle Recruiting Officer Pat Prior at [Hampshire.cro@rbl.community](mailto:Hampshire.cro@rbl.community) with respect to Deputy CRO's. It is our intention to provide the required training for these persons to be able to train others within the county. With respect to having sufficient resources within the county I will be pushing for more Branch Treasurer courses so we are able to have a core group of trained personnel who can then go on to become Independent Examiners (IE) and take the pressure off of the County Treasurer who is currently the only IE we have. Finally, we will be holding at least four Recruitment Advisor courses throughout the county as it is our aim that all branches shall have at least one Recruitment Advisor. Look out for more information as to when and where these courses shall be held.

It is also our aim that at least 40 branches within the county shall have a Branch Community Support (BCS) representative by the end of the year and eventually all branches shall have at least one BCS representative. For all Branch Community Support related training members should contact Committee Vice-Chairman at [Hampshire.vicechairman@rbl.community](mailto:Hampshire.vicechairman@rbl.community) or through the Area Office on 0808 802 8080.

I would finally remind the membership of the importance of embracing the use of Membership Access Portal for all branch and RBL related communication. E-mails and log in details are available from the Membership Support Officer (MSO) Chris Bolton at [Cbolton@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:Cbolton@britishlegion.org.uk) or by ringing the Area Office on 0808 802 8080. Once the log-in details are obtained the lay-out of the MAP is simple with a large amount of information available relating to a wide range of topics including quick start guides of how to navigate the portal as well as application forms for a number of membership related areas. If any branch should

experience difficulties when accessing and implementing this portal then they should contact the MSO or me at [Hampshire.cto@rbl.community](mailto:Hampshire.cto@rbl.community). I am willing to visit branches to provide support by giving briefings on the use of MAP's and the associate software.

Should members have any questions or requests for training then please contact me at [Hampshire.cto@rbl.community](mailto:Hampshire.cto@rbl.community).

*Mike Davis*  
*County Training Officer*

## Branch News

### Fleet, Crookham & District

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September we will be holding a very special evening presentation on a former resident of Church Crookham, Maj Gen Dudley Johnson VC, CB, DSO & Bar, MC. On 8<sup>th</sup> September his grandson, Lt Col (Ret'd) Andrew Larpent OBE will be giving a presentation to the Branch, open to all with proceeds going to The Poppy Appeal and The VC & GC Association.

On 4<sup>th</sup> November 1918, Lieutenant Colonel Johnson, commanding the 2nd Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment, led the attack on a lock on the Sambre Canal, France for which he was awarded the VC. Between the wars he held a number of instruction and staff posts before being appointed Commanding Officer of 2nd Bn North Staffordshire Regiment in 1928. He became Commander of 12th (Secunderbad) Infantry Brigade in 1933 and General Officer Commanding 4th Division from 1938 to 1940. He was replaced as divisional commander after Dunkirk and made GOC of Aldershot Command later on in 1940 before becoming Inspector of Infantry in 1941. He retired in 1944 and was Colonel of the South Wales Borderers from 1944 to 1949.

After retiring to Church Crookham in 1944, he held many local positions including Chairman of Fleet Urban District Council and Church Warden of Christ Church, Church Crookham. Buried in the church yard of Christ Church his grave will be refurbished by his family and rededicated on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November, 100 years almost to the day of his VC action.

## *The Life of Major General Dudley Johnson VC CB DSO\* MC*

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September, 7.30pm

Church Crookham Community Centre  
Boyce Road  
Crookham Park  
Church Crookham  
GU52 8AQ

To book your seat please call Tim Burt (Branch Secretary), 01252 613802.

### **Bramley & District**

The Bramley & District Branch is holding its Annual Dinner Night on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2018, with the guest of honour & speaker being Air Chief Marshall Sir Richard Johns GCB, KCVO, CBE.

Non-Members of the Branch are very welcome to attend at a cost of £26.00pp. it will be held at the Sherborne St John Village Hall. Please see the flyer attached to the Link for contact details to get tickets.

### **Petersfield**

The Petersfield Branch held its annual Summer Dinner on the 22<sup>nd</sup> August, which was well attended with a sumptuous menu and a plethora of prizes for the raffle.



The Reverend Margaret Hay said grace, and Anna Lewis – wife of Chairman Clive – was presented a bouquet of flowers to celebrate their 54<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

### **Winchester**

When young men returned from their service during the First World War, with their wish to get back to a normal lifestyle many wanted to return to their Scout Troops, which were also trying to get back to normality after four years of service to the country and local community.

However, during the war time period, the service men had become men and the Boy Scout Movement was started and continued to be for boys only. So, there was a major need to start another Branch of Scouting to suit these young

men, and so it was that Rover Scouts were started in 1918 for the over 17-year-old males.

This section grew in membership rapidly and very strongly in the years after 1918, and become the way of life for many hundreds of young men, not only in Britain but throughout the world.

Once again, these young men were taken away from their Scout Groups with the start of the second World war, but this time they took their Scouting with them into the Army, navy and Air Force, by starting Rover Scout Crews in their training camps and places of service. Perhaps the most remarkable places with Rover crews were in German and Far East Prisoner of war camps.

To celebrate the centenary of the start of Rover Scouts a presentation of the story of Rover Scouts and pictures, and some remarkable stories of Rover Crews in POW camps will be presented by Hampshire Scout Heritage at the crescent School, Tonybee Road, Eastleigh on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2018 from 7pm, of which everyone is invited.

For more details, or a Branch presentation then please contact Brian O'Neill at

[brian@4theastleigh.co.uk](mailto:brian@4theastleigh.co.uk)

A poste for the Rover 100 is attached to the Link, so please pass it around.

### **Sutton Scotney & District**

**Medical Services during the Great War**, an evening talk by Dr Emily Mayhew of the RBL Blast Injuries Research Centre, Imperial College.

The Sutton Scotney & District Branch, in conjunction with the Dever Valley Local History Society is hosting an evening talk on Friday October 5<sup>th</sup> at the Victoria Hall, Sutton Scotney SO21 3GX. The talk will commence at 1930.

Dr Emily Mayhew is the historian in residence at the RBL Blast Injuries Centre, Imperial College and has written extensively on military medical services from 1914 through to the recent events in Afghanistan and Iraq. For this event, and to commemorate the centenary of the Armistice, she will be focussing on her first work, the services during the Great War. It is hoped that copies of her book (Wounded) which is in print will be available for sale.

Entry fees will be £3 and there will be a closing collection for the benefit of the RBL Poppy Appeal.

There is a reasonable sized public car-park opposite the hall but early attendance is suggested to ensure a parking space.

For more information about the Blast Injuries Centre see RBL Legion Magazine for April 2018 or go to <http://www.imperial.ac.uk/blast-injury>

## Kingsclere

*Attached to the Link this month is another one-page War history from Kingsclere, who's secretary, Mr Dudley Wall, has been producing. I would like to thank him for all his hard work, and allowing me to present the information to the County.*

August 2018 has been a very special month for the Kingsclere branch of the Royal British Legion in a number of ways. The attendance of our Standard Bearer and Chairman at GP90 was a very moving experience, with a number of crosses laid at Tyne Cot and Thiepval memorials beside the names of men from the village killed in action. Already the branch is planning a return trip next year.

We supported in late July the Biker Night at The Crown and with superb support from the village and beyond, we raised some money for the RBL and more importantly this year in particular, the Poppy Appeal. We are now focusing on support to other village events in August and September including a further Bike Night, Village Summer Fete and Inter-pub cricket match and Tug-O-War. We continue to lay a wreath every month before our branch meeting (1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7pm at The Crown) on the village memorial to remember those who were lost in World War 1, with 7 names of those killed in action remembered and read out in August. We also laid a wreath to remember the 73<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of VJ Day. This was accompanied by the laying of a personal wreath by one of the branch members to honour her husband who fought in the Far East during World War 2. The service was supported by a bagpiper who performed during the wreath laying ceremony, ensuring the wider village community sees and hears our activities.



### **Kingsclere RBL VJ Day Wreath Laying Ceremony**

A very successful social evening was held in late August to bring our branch closer together on a personal level and to get to know each other a little better. Additionally, a brief and slideshow with detail of the GP90 event was also delivered to the attendees.



### **Kingsclere RBL Social and GP90 Slideshow**

Our Branch Secretary, Dudley Wall continues to produce stunning one-page histories of Kingsclere soldiers who fought during World War 1, one-page battle overviews and one-page medal briefings for the branch and wider community; some of which can be found on our Kingsclere Branch Facebook site "Kingsclere Royal British Legion".

### **Eastleigh, Chandler`s Ford & District**

With the passing of Mr Norman Brown MBE, if anyone has ordered Wreaths from him in the past, if they could be contact Mr Jez Smith @ [jezsmiff@aol.com](mailto:jezsmiff@aol.com) to make new arrangements.

### **Poppy Appeal News**

National total £45,904,962-20  
Hampshire County £1,636,834-88  
North £772,388-39  
South £864,446-49

## 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.

Training takes place at

**Eastleigh** – Pavilion in the Park, 1 Kingfisher Road, Eastleigh SO50 9LH

**Lymington** – Lymington Drill Hall, Bath Road, Lymington, SO41 3RU

**Fleet** – Old NAAFI Building, Quetta Park, Church Crookham, Fleet, GU52 8TG

Training runs from March through to October inclusive, and all Standard Bearers are urged to take training courses as beginners or long serving to enhance their position as the Legion's presence in the community.

<b>Eastleigh:</b>	<b>Lymington:</b>	<b>Fleet:</b>
1400hrs	1930hrs	1900hrs
Sep 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Sep 10 <sup>th</sup>	Sep 12 <sup>th</sup>
Oct 7 <sup>th</sup>	Oct 8 <sup>th</sup>	Oct 10 <sup>th</sup>

The Parade Marshall, Steve Forward can be contacted on 023 8069 3028, or [stevemo@stevemo.plus.com](mailto:stevemo@stevemo.plus.com) or Deputy Parade Marshall, Dave Graham on 01425 623102 or [davidkarengraham1@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:davidkarengraham1@yahoo.co.uk) for more information.

Steve and Dave put a lot of effort into training Standard Bearers so please come along and give them your support and ensure you are showing the Legion, and your Branch in the best possible light. Training and Drills have changes over time, so come along and ensure you are kept current. GP90 Standard Bearers should attend at least ONE training session prior to departure, to ensure they are up to date with procedure.

### Annual Competition

The Annual County Standard Bearer's competition which was scheduled for Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October at Jubilee Hall, Bishops Waltham has been cancelled due to lack of applicants.

## Notices

### Hampshire Festival of Remembrance

More Standard Bearers are required to sign up to support the Hampshire County Festival of Remembrance on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018, at the Mayflower Theatre in Southampton, if you are available and would like to take part please contact the Area Office, The Hampshire Link, the CFR's, Sarah & Jim, or the CRO, Pat Prior MBE. *There has been a very poor response from Standard Bearers for this very important event, so please if you're a Standard Bearer, who is available then please make contact.*

### Our Finest Hour

Sat 22 Sep, 7.30pm

The Anvil, Basingstoke

In the lead up to Remembrance Day, join the BBC Big Band, singer Annie Gill and Kevin Whately, as they capture the spirit of the 1940s. Performing songs including We'll Meet Again, The White Cliffs of Dover and A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square, they will look back in words and music at the momentous turning point of World War II from the miracle of Dunkirk to the decisive victory of the Battle of Britain.



Tickets: £32.50, £30; Over 65s, under 16s and f/t students £2 off (includes £3 booking fee)

Book online: [www.Anvilarts.org.uk/ourfinesthour](http://www.Anvilarts.org.uk/ourfinesthour)

Box Office: 01256 844244

### Newsletter Attachments:

Battle of Albert – *Kingsclere*

Be A Member - *Leaflet*

Bramley Dinner Night – *Bramley & District*

Hampshire RBL Training

Johnson VC Talk – *Fleet, Crookham & District*

Recruitment & Retention – *Quick Guides*

Rovers 100 – *Flyer*

*These two poems have been sent to the Hampshire Link by a member of the RBL in Hampshire who wishes to remain Anonymous.*

## **I AM A SOLDIER**

I am a soldier and I don't want to kill, if I go to war I probably will.  
I am a soldier and I'm trained to fight. If it comes to the crunch I'll be full of fright.  
I am a soldier and I've got a wife. Wipe out a husband and ruin a life.  
I am a soldier my mother worries and prays. Kill an enemy, then grief-stricken days.  
I am a soldier I've got loads of mates, day by day they're going home in crates.  
I am a soldier war gives me no joy. Lets' me and the Hun be like little boys.  
I am a soldier going to be demobbed. Didn't realise just much I'd been robbed.

## **KILLED IN ACTION**

The fruit of your action, our freedom and priceless peace.  
Though you are not here your memory we'll honour 'till the sands of time cease.

Your body presses down into the cold earth as the battle around you rages,  
Mates left and right are shot down. You drag yourself up, one-minute lasts ages.

Forward on and on is the order, you obey without self-regard.  
But fear is in your heart, ingredient of heroism, "Oh, my God this is so hard".

A lull in the fighting, time for a fag, think of England and the wife you so love.  
Will I get through this? Will I see home? Is there a God in this heaven above?

Been in this hell hole only a few weeks, you saw dreadful sights no-one ought to see.  
Blown up arms, legs and guts, it made you vomit this bloody human debris.

The sun rises on that fateful day and hot lead enters unresisting flesh.  
Bone splinters and "Mother" is the last word on your dying breath.

And here we are standing free and there you are, a cross in a field  
And nothing can repay what you did or for the life you did yield.

And when the sun sets upon Poppies blowing in the wind, sea of red,  
We'll stop and forever remember you for you are not dead.

## Events Diary

**2018**

### September

**8<sup>th</sup>** – Life of Maj Gen D Johnson VC CB DSO MC  
Church Crookham Community Centre, GU52 8AQ

Tel: 01252 613802 – *Amendment to area code*

**9<sup>th</sup>** - Earl Mountbatten Memorial Service

Romsey Abbey

Reply through Branch secretary

Returns Form attached to Link Newsletter

**14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>** – At the Bugle Call They Came

Phoenix Theatre & Arts Centre

Tel: 01420 472664

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

**18<sup>th</sup>** – Rovers 100 – 7pm

The Crescent School, Tonybee Road, Eastleigh

[brian@4theastleigh.co.uk](mailto:brian@4theastleigh.co.uk)

**22<sup>nd</sup>** – Our Finest hour

Anvil – Basingstoke

Box Office – 01256 844244

[www.anvilarts.org.uk/ourfinesthour](http://www.anvilarts.org.uk/ourfinesthour)

### October

**5<sup>th</sup>** Bramley & District Dinner Night

Sherborne St John Village Hall

£26.00 PP

*See flyer for more details*

**5<sup>th</sup>** – Medical Services During the Great War

Sutton Scotney & District

Victoria Hall, SO21 3GX – 1930hrs

Entry £3.00

**21<sup>st</sup>** -Great South Run

Southsea, Portsmouth

Details TBC

**25<sup>th</sup>** – County Poppy Launch

Farnborough, North Hampshire

Details TBC

**27<sup>th</sup>** – Uniformed Collection – “Thank You”

Westquay, Southampton

Details TBC

**27<sup>th</sup>** – Poppy Appeal Launch

Poppy Appeal period **28<sup>th</sup>** October to **11<sup>th</sup>**

November (depending on area)

### November

**11<sup>th</sup>** – Hampshire Festival of Remembrance

Mayflower Theatre, Southampton

Show starts at 19:00hrs and lasts about 2hrs

Tickets £22.00 – Available now (Selling fast)

## 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 28th of the month

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>Bob Bartlett</i>
Treasurer	<i>Brian C N Soffe</i>
MSO	<i>Christopher Bolton</i>
Membership Council Rep	<i>Gerry Nunn</i>
Area Manager SW	<i>Jim France</i>
Training Officer	<i>Mike Davis</i>
Branch Support – North	<i>Jacki Gatfield</i>
Branch Support - South	<i>Andy Knight</i>
Youth Officer	<i>Vacant</i>
Committee Member	<i>Brian Mansi</i>
CFR – Manager SW	<i>Claire Peppiatt</i>
CFR – Hampshire North	<i>Jim Parker</i>
CFR – Hampshire South	<i>Sarah Ferris</i>
PAO Coordinator – North	<i>Jacki Gatfield</i>
PAO Coordinator – South	<i>Pat Prior BEM QVRM</i>
Communications Support	<i>Avril Mitchell</i>
Hampshire Link	<i>Darron Back</i>