The Royal British Legion  
The Royal County of Berkshire  
and Vale of White Horse  

COUNTY CIRCULAR  
SEPTEMBER 2018

LEST WE FORGET

Ian Parker  
Tilehurst Club President  
National Certificate of Appreciation

Edward John Dowell  
Tilehurst Committee member

Owen George MBE  
Tilehurst Club Vice President

Our deepest sympathies go to their family and friends

BRANCH SECRETARIES:  
Please bring these items to your members’ attention and display this circular where your members can read it.

GP90

GP90 and the One Hundred Days ceremony were a success mainly due to the spirit and commitment shown by the branches that supported the event and the pilgrims that attended. We achieved our objective of honouring the Legion’s 1928 Battlefields Pilgrimage and those that made the ultimate sacrifice in the First World War.
The following branches took part:

Throughout the day our digital and social channels were dedicated to covering the proceedings and thousands of followers on each platform engaged with the content. The PR team secured national print pieces including a double page spread in the Daily Mirror, hundreds of regional and local news pieces and the event was covered by all of Belgian’s main broadcast media. British national broadcasters decided our event was not a priority story for them and chose not to cover it.

There are also many individuals who have posted pictures and videos on Facebook and YouTube. The wreath installation has been completed next to the Menin Gate and will be in place until Fri 31 August. Ypres Branch RBL have kindly agreed to photograph all wreaths and gradually post them to their Facebook page here: https://en-gb.facebook.com/RBLYpres/

There is now a short video on the RBL website: https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/remembrance/ww1-centenary/great-pilgrimage-90/

Other sites with pictures and video are:
https://www.facebook.com/OfficialPoppyLegion/posts/1846745378736314
https://www.forces.net/news/march-through-ypres-commemorates-100-years-end-wwi
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9H7MjdoVbk (shows whole parade)

STANDARD BEARERS COMPETITION

The Berkshire and Vale of White Horse Standard Bearers competition and Women’s Section Regional Competition took place on Sunday 9 September. The winners are:

RBL County Mr Andrew Gale
RBL Women’s Section County and Regional Miss Helen Mannerings

BERKSHIRE WW1 COMMEMORATIVE FESTIVAL REMEMBRANCE 3 NOVEMBER 2018

The Lord Lieutenant of The Royal County of Berkshire invites Branches to apply for complimentary tickets for their members to attend the Commemorative Festival of Remembrance at Reading Minster. All Branches are requested to send representation and an application form is enclosed to be returned to the MSO by 20 September.

The Festival will be in the evening of Saturday 3rd November 2018 at and is proposed to commence at 18:30 hours with doors opening at 17:45 hours. Timings will be confirmed on the tickets.

Standard Bearers do not need to apply for a ticket but are asked confirm their attendance. A return form is enclosed.

RACEDAY AND LAUNCH OF THE POPPY APPEAL AT NEWBURY RACOURSE 27 OCTOBER

The launch of the Poppy Appeal in Berkshire will take place on Saturday 27 October at the Worthingtons Raceday at Newbury Racecourse. The Poppy Appeal Launch ceremony will take place about 1½ hours before the first race, times to be confirmed nearer to the Raceday.
The racecourse offers free entry for armed forces personnel past and present and RBL members. To order tickets please contact the racecourse direct on tel. 01635 40015, you will need to quote your service number or RBL membership number when booking.

A leaflet is enclosed.

**COUNTY CONFERENCE 19 JANUARY 2019**

The 2019 County Conference will be held at 11.00am on Saturday 19 January 2019 at Newbury RBL Club. Our head office guest speaker will be Emma Cannings, Director of Membership & Volunteering.

Full details will be sent out to all Branches later in September.

**COUNTY COMMITTEE**

The County Committee is now at its lowest numbers for some time and would welcome members from the Branches who feel that they would like to join the County Team to assist in the way the county operates, and also to support the branches in their endeavours.

Members who would like to become more involved in the running of the county please contact the County Chairman. Nomination forms will be in the conference pack distributed later this month.

The County Committee meets once every two months with the first meeting of the year in January usually on the Thursday after Conference. Meetings are at 7.00pm on the third Thursday of alternate months. Also sub-committees meet as needed for the development of particular needs.

**BRANCH ACCOUNTS**

The Branch Accounts forms and documentation were sent to Branch Treasurers at the end of June, apart from those registered on LOMAS. There is also an Excel version of the accounts form this year which we **strongly encourage** all Branch Treasurers to use (not LOMAS users) so they can send their accounts in electronic format along with a signed printed copy. This will speed up the processing in finance. MSO’s have been asked to transfer any manual accounts onto the Excel version and submit to head office.

Please note the MSO will be on leave from 24 September and not back in the office until Wednesday 3 October. Can branches try to submit their accounts prior to Thursday 20 September so they can be recorded as received.

**MEMBERSHIP FEE**

The Legion membership fee remains at £17.00 after 1 October 2018.

**THANK YOU**

Visit [https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/remembrance/ww1-centenary/thank-you/](https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/remembrance/ww1-centenary/thank-you/) to find out more and watch our film. Social media updates are shown towards the bottom of the page.

If you have any questions please contact the team – [ThankYou@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:ThankYou@britishlegion.org.uk) We would be pleased to hear of any ‘Thank You’ events that your Branch or local community is holding.
MEMBERSHIP LISTINGS IN MEMBERSHIP ADMINISTRATION PORTAL (MAP)

In light of an update to our Membership database we have revised the contact preference columns that appear on your Membership listings in MAP (Current Branch Members Report).

The four columns have new and clearer titles and the number of different values that appear in these columns has been reduced to help avoid confusion.

- **Opt in Email** - "Yes" indicates that a member has opted in to be contacted by email.
- **Opt In Preferences** - This lists the communication channels that a member has opted in for.
- **Opt Out Post** - By default all members are set to opt in for post. This is still the case with the new GDPR changes. If they have specified that they do not wish to be contacted by post it will say "Yes".
- **Opt Out Preferences** - This lists all the communication channels, relevant to Membership, that the member has opted out of.

DP stands for Data Protection.

The GDPR pack can be found in the new Membership Resources area accessed from the MAP homepage.

Branch administration communications are not affected by these preferences as we do not need consent.

**WW1 COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE MAIDENHEAD 21 OCTOBER**

Maidenhead Branch is holding a Special Commemorative Services at 10.3am on Sunday 21 October at All Saints Church, Boyne Hill Road, Maidenhead SL6 4HE.

Branch Standards are invited to the service.

In July the Branch set up a Silhouette adjacent to the War Memorial outside the church.

**DEDICATION OF CENTENARY FIELD, DIDCOT 25 SEPTEMBER 2018**

Didcot and District Royal British Legion and Didcot Town Council invite representatives from branches in the RBL Royal County of Berkshire and Vale of White Horse to the World War One 1914 - 1918 commemorations at Didcot War Memorial, Smallbone Recreation Ground, Britwell Road, Didcot for the Dedication of Smallbone Recreation Ground as a Centenary Field.

Tuesday, 25th September 2018, 1.45pm for 2.00pm

The Ceremony will mark the Centenary of World War One when Britain's bravest lay down their lives for future generations. The Centenary Fields Programme in partnership with the Royal British Legion and Fields in Trust will protect the War Memorial and Smallbone Recreation Ground in perpetuity and deliver a fitting tribute and a living legacy to the sacrifices made by our local people. Didcot's Centenary Field has been made possible by Didcot Town Council dedicating the land at Smallbone Recreation Ground for the future benefit of the community of Didcot.

RSVP
Secretary - Didcot Royal British Legion
Email: jrunderwood@virginmedia.com
The Royal British Legion Crowthorne Branch and Club were in attendance at the Crowthorne Carnival held on the 7th July 2018. They raised a total of £247.50 for the Poppy Appeal from the sale of home-made jam and cakes, poppy paraphernalia and a giant Shove Ha'penny game. The Royal British Legion Club offered a welcoming open house, with plenty of refreshment and shade.

EVERYONE REMEMBERED - LET’S MAKE SURE THEIR SACRIFICE IS NEVER FORGOTTEN

In 2018, the centenary of the end of the First World War, we want to ensure that all Commonwealth Service men and women who fell during World War One are remembered. You can leave your own unique commemoration on our website to one of the fallen: a family member, someone from your local area; or any of the many still left to be remembered. They all served and made the ultimate sacrifice, and this year we want to make sure we have joined together to say Thank You.

Visit http://www.everyoneremembered.org/

MOD APPEAL FOR FAMILIES OF MISSING OR KILLED SOLDIERS FROM THE KOREAN WAR

The Ministry of Defence is offering the opportunity for relatives of UK Service Personnel killed or missing in action in the Korean War to provide DNA samples to support identification of remains.

At the recent United States-Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) Summit, President Trump and Kim Jong Un signed the Sentosa Agreement, which included a commitment to recover remains from the DPRK and return them to the US, where they will be identified.

The remains may include UK casualties and the DNA samples will be used to support identification, over a number of years, to make sure any UK personnel identified are ultimately
given military funerals at the United Nations cemetery in the Republic of Korea. The MOD also intend to cover costs for immediate family members to attend.

UK personnel fought during the Korean War as part of the United Nations Command (UNC). The 3-year conflict between 1950 and 1953 led to the loss of hundreds of thousands of lives from Korea, China and the UNC.

Family members of those missing personnel who have no known grave are asked to call the Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre on 01452 854622 or 01452 855258.

**STAFF HOLIDAY**

The MSO will be on leave on the following dates

13 & 14 September
24 September to 2 October inc.

**Enclosures**

Branch Accounts Excel accounts form
Armed Forces Raceday leaflet
Commemorative Festival of Remembrance application
Standard Bearers attendance for Commemorative Festival of Remembrance
Invitation and Poster for Centenary Field Dedication Service Didcot
Membership Newsletter

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**Membership Support Officer (MSO):**

Jennifer Strange  
T: 0118 9762362  
E: Berkshire.MSO@RBL.Community  
Or jstrange@britishlegion.org.uk

**Welfare**

Andy Stephenson, Case Officer  
Ann Bethell & Victoria Gornall-King  
Advice & Information Officers  
T: 0808 8028080  
E: Southeastmidlands@britishlegion.org.uk

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**Community Fundraiser:**

Gaynor Dingley (East Berkshire)  
Tel. 07823 418842  
Email: gdingley@britishlegion.org.uk

Sarah Brown (West Berkshire)  
Tel: 07458 015792  
Email: sbrown3@britishlegion.org.uk

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**Regional Clubs Relationship Manager, Midlands**

Pauline Swann,  
T: 07970 375421  
E: pswann@britishlegion.org.uk
## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### 2018

**October** 27
- Armed Forces Raceday and County Poppy Launch
  - Newbury Racecourse

**November**
- 3
  - Berkshire 100th Anniversary of the end of WW1 Commemorative Festival Remembrance
  - Reading Minster, 6.30pm
- 10
  - Festival of Remembrance
  - Royal Albert Hall
- 11
  - Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day
- 11
  - Salvation Army Festival of Remembrance
  - 6.15pm The Salvation Army, Reading Central, Anstey Road
  - Reading RG1 7JR

### January 2019
- 19
  - County Conference
  - 11.00am Newbury RBL Club

Dates of County Committee meetings held at 7.00pm at the County Office, Eversley Road, Arborfield. Reading RB2 9PR

- 20 September  (Conference Committee meeting 6.15pm)
- 15 November
- 24 January 2019

If members wish to attend please advise Jennifer Strange, Membership Support Officer (jstrange@britishlegion.org.uk)

## STANDARD BEARER TRAINING

As the Standard Bearers Competition has now taken place there will not be any further training sessions this year.