



## We Will Remember Them

Mr D J Boxall – *Milford on Sea*

*Our sincere condolences to family and friends*

### Special Announcement

#### WHAT A TREASURE (R)

After 52-years' service to The Legion, Brian Soffe has stepped down from his position of County Treasurer.

Brian, who has served on the County Committee since 1974 and held the position of Treasurer for three periods, totalling 18 years, passed on the baton today to Gez Brown of Ringwood Branch. Thankfully for the County Committee he is remaining as a Committee member, where he will still dispense his wise counsel to all that need it. All past National Council Members, County Committees, including the current one, have benefitted from his depth of knowledge, experience and unfailing memory to steer them on the correct path.

Besides assisting the County and his Branches of Copythorne and Earl Mountbatten Memorial Branch, Brian has unstintingly given his time to advise new Branch Treasurers, Independent Examiners and audit other Branches' accounts.

Brian epitomises the Legion motto of "Service not Self" and we wish him well in his part time retirement.

*"Brian, a simple thank you, does not do justice to the contribution you have made to the Legion and its members. The support and guidance you give to me personally has been invaluable and I know that the County Committee and members throughout our County appreciate everything you have done. Thank you again Brian"*

Kindest regards,  
Tim Russell,  
County Chairman"

### National News

#### Armed Forces Covenant Trust Fund

The Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust is awarding grants to improve buildings used by veterans and their communities.

This could cover renovations and repairs, including adaptations, to encourage continued use and a significantly improved experience for veterans. Branches can apply for general repairs, plumbing upgrades, electrical work, new fixtures and fittings, updated technology, and works to make the building more accessible (e.g. ramps, toilets). They can include fees related to planning permissions and building controls, and project management fees for the capital works. However, branches can only apply for cosmetic improvements (such as decorating) if it is needed as a result of damage caused during refurbishment or where you can show that it will make a significant difference to veterans' use of the Centre.

For more information, contact Emma Cassley, Trusts & Foundations Fundraiser:  
[ecassley@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:ecassley@britishlegion.org.uk) or 0203 053 7199.

### County News

#### Welfare Fund

As you should know, the Fund has been going since 2002 and up to June 2019 had helped, through the County Almonisation process, 1918 cases granting £559,655 - an average of £292 per case.

Additional help given by Regimental Associations, by employers, and by the Branches (through the County Welfare Fund) is known as 'ALMONISATION'

During this last 12 months we have now been able to contribute a sum of £54,104 to assist (i.e Almonise) a total of 120 cases. As of 30<sup>th</sup> June, I now have an empty purse.

Branches in Hampshire have been extremely generous in supporting the Welfare Fund, over the years, and we would wish to thank the following Branches who have contributed, this year.

Bitterne - Brockenhurst – Copythorne – Damerham – Droxford - Earl Mountbatten Memorial – Farnborough – Gosport – Hale, Woodgreen & Breamore – Hambledon - Havant - Lovedean & Horndean - Milford on Sea – Old Basing - Southampton – Sutton Scotney - Totton & Eling who between them donated a total of £47,762.

### **Our sincere thanks go to you all.**

As we go into a new financial year, we wish to extend an invitation to ALL Branches in Hampshire (AND to our Clubs) to assist the County Welfare Fund in its main objective - “to relieve need, suffering, hardship and distress” to those in the ex-service and serving Forces community.

No contribution is too small and none would be too large. I look forward to your generosity.

**Please continue to support our ex-service community in a positive way.**

Please ensure that cheques are made out to “**Royal British Legion**” and do **not** include the word “Welfare” as cheques will be returned by the bank. Please enclose a not stating which account you would like the donation to be credited to, as the County account has various sub accounts.

*Brian C N Soffe*

Hampshire County Treasurer

### **Branches Group Meeting**

The newly formed Branch Groups will start meeting from August this year.

The North Hampshire Group will hold its initial meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2019, 1300hrs-1500hrs at the Old Basing RBL Hall, Crown Lane, RG24 7DN. County Committee members will be in attendance to offer advice on training, recruitment, and its open to all members of the Hampshire Branches.

### **Riders Branch**

Any branches who are holding a fundraising or recruiting event and would like support from the Riders Branch, please contact Richard Skilton, Hampshire Riders Branch

Rep [hampshire@riders-mail.com](mailto:hampshire@riders-mail.com) or <https://www.facebook.com/groups/146792658761053/>

## **Branch News**

### **Southampton**

The Southampton Branch would like to thank all those that took the time to respond to their request for suggestions on where to locate the original copy of General Eisenhower`s Southampton Branch RBL Membership application.

After careful consideration and a visit to Southwick House, it was decided that the Eisenhower room, at Southwick House, which is on the regular public tour route, would be the appropriate place to display the application form and letter of condolence.

The Branch were given an excellent copy of the originals for their own records.

### **Petersfield**

Petersfield Armed Forces Day Flag Raising took place at Festival Hall at 1100hrs 24<sup>th</sup> June 2019, in the presence of the Mayor, Lesley Farrow, Petersfield Town Council and members of the Petersfield RBL.





## Kingsclere

Another busy month for our small branch, with a Brunch Club, Bike Night, Waterloo Dinner Night and support to the D Day 75 convoy all put to bed. Membership continues to increase, with 4 new legionaries recruited and on our books in June alone; the Brunch Club is a great way to advertise and attract in new members and I would encourage any small branch to give the idea a go. Twenty-one branch members attended our first Waterloo Dinner Night in late June, remembering the 8 villagers who were recruited into the Kings Dragoon Guards and who were lost during the battle. A wreath was laid and a formal dinner held in their memory at The Crown Inn. The highlight of the month has to be the D Day 75 convoy which passed through the village on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2019; the village was festooned with bunting and flags and over 150 people came out to wave and cheer the convoy past. The branch members dressed in period costume and ran a number of stalls and attractions thought the day, raising funds for both the Poppy Appeal and Bran



## Farnborough

The Assistant Provincial Grand Master for Hampshire & IOW Peter Vosser was in attendance and during the evening he was pleased to present two cheques to the Concert Band of the Royal British Legion totalling £2,150, which was primarily used to help towards the bands costs when they represented the Royal British Legion at a Ceremony of Remembrance at the Menin Gate in Ypres, Belgium on 24th May 2019.



## Gosport

A small ceremony was held in Gosport on 14<sup>th</sup> June at the Falklands Garden, remembering the fallen from the town and the end of the conflict. Gosport & Alverstoke and the Lee-on-Solent Branch Standards were present alongside the HMS Glamorgan Standard.



## Earl Mountbatten Memorial

This Branch was formed in May 1980, nearly a year after the death of Lord Louis Mountbatten. Its founder members were all members of the Hampshire County committee whose idea it was to remember this great statesman by naming a Legion branch in his honour.

This year we remember the Earl Mountbatten of Burma 40 years on from his death in 1979 in Ireland.

All Legion members are invited to attend the annual Service of Remembrance at 3pm on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September when the County Patron, Lt Gen Sir Mark Mans KCB CBE DL is our principal guest. Read the attached proforma for details. We would welcome new members to join our Branch, since our numbers are gradually decreasing. All of our members have agreed to remain a member of their local branch, since our aim is to support other Branches, not to poach members from them. The branch meets four times a year in October (AGM), January, April and July, and branch committee meetings are also held quarterly in December, March, June and August to join new members.

Application forms may be obtained from B C N Soffe, Greystones, Barneyhayes Lane, Cadnam, Southampton SO40 2ND (023 8081 2419) or [mountbatten.treasurer@rbl.community](mailto:mountbatten.treasurer@rbl.community) or join us on-line.

### Bordon & District

The Whitehill & Bordon Town's Armed Forces Flag Raising took place on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June at the Forrest Community Centre, in attendance were the Mayor, Mrs Catherine Clark, Lt Col Mark Ludlow, who is the senior officer at Longmoor camp, the last bastion of the Army in the town, the Royal British Legion Branch, REME Association, Local Air Cadets, and several schoolchildren representing all the local schools from pre-school through to post 18 training. All were invited back inside for refreshments laid on by the Town Council & Town Partnership.



### Andover

Another successful Armed Forces Day at Vigo Park Andover... Thanks to Love Andover for organising the event...

Thank you to all Who came along to the Andover Branch RBL Poppy Appeal Stall where we are continually promoting poppy breaks, handy man service, admiral nurses, RBL care homes, kitbags live on, debt management advice, will writing service just to name a few of the services provided by the RBL to Serving personnel, Veterans and their families.

In 2018/19 over £49,574,875 has been raised so far,

Many thanks to you all, for your continual support to the Royal British Legion and thank you to all us Volunteers

### 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.

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.

<b>Eastleigh</b>	<b>Lymington</b>	<b>Fleet</b>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>
<i>14:00</i>	<i>19:30</i>	<i>19:00</i>
<i>21<sup>st</sup> July</i>	<i>15<sup>th</sup> July</i>	<i>17<sup>th</sup> July</i>
<i>N/A</i>	<i>12<sup>th</sup> Aug</i>	<i>14<sup>th</sup> Aug</i>
<i>8<sup>th</sup> Sept</i>	<i>9<sup>th</sup> Sept</i>	<i>11<sup>th</sup> Sept</i>
<i>20<sup>th</sup> Oct</i>	<i>14<sup>th</sup> Oct</i>	<i>16<sup>th</sup> Oct</i>

*Each session is an hour long*

## Poppy Appeal News

### D-Day 75 – Southsea

The Community Fundraising team organised a Poppy Village marquee at the commemorative events on Southsea Common from 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> June. The ‘village’ was populated by us along with the area operations team, Admiral Nurses, Handy Van Service, Equality & Diversity, Mass Events and Poppy Shop so it was a really collaborative event. We also had support from Portchester Community School who managed a bucket collection at Portsmouth Harbour station, the pupils were a real credit to the school and even had their own stand in the village over the last 2 days to talk with the public about the work they have been doing around D Day.

We had 34k visitors to our village over the 5 days although sadly the Friday was ‘called off’ due to rain and high winds, thankfully the marquee was well weighted down! Delighted to report that £16.5k was raised for TRBL Poppy Appeal during the time and Poppy Shop also did amazingly well with an income of almost £12k.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped out over the commemorative events along with staff for mucking in where needed. Also, a big thank you to South Western Railway, Brittany Ferries, Wightlink, POSH Art and Portchester Community School.

### Poppy Quest Portsmouth

Poppy Quest Portsmouth is the perfect way to discover the past and present of this historic city. The 10km sponsored walk is suitable for all ages and abilities. You can walk solo, with your dog or with family and friends - it’s completely up to you.

On setting off from the Guildhall Square, you’ll be armed with a map to navigate our trail and a set of questions to answer en route which will get you to explore the city’s rich history. For the kids, we’ll give them a stamp collection card so when they get to each question spot, they’ll be encouraged to speak to one of our volunteers to find out more and receive their stamp reward. If you’re walking on your own, you can meet up with fellow solo walkers at our Meet Up point at the start. It’s a great opportunity to make new friends and get your heads together to take on this unique challenge.

We’re asking each adult to fundraise £50, if there are any children in your team, we’ve also got some fun ways for them to get involved in the fundraising. If you reach £100 in sponsorship, you’ll also receive a special prize for you or your team. The vital funds you raise will mean we’re able to support veterans and their families

Costs:

Registration costs £16 for adults, and children under 18 can enter for free. All participants will receive:

- A finisher’s reward to celebrate your achievement
- A Royal British Legion t-shirt
- A special gift for participants who raise over £100 (1 per £100 if in a team)
- A map and quiz to help you find the hidden gems in your city
- Full support prior to the walk, including fundraising pack and preparation ideas
- Soft drinks, sweets and snacks to replenish you before and after the walk
- Meet and greet our Poppy Mascot
- Entertainment at the Event Village

Your registration cost covers your place in the event and we encourage our participants to raise a minimum of £50 which will go directly towards supporting our Armed Forces community and their families.

More information can be found at

[www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/fundraise/poppy-quest-portsmouth](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/fundraise/poppy-quest-portsmouth)

## Notices

### Awards

Congratulations to Mr **Terry Whittle**, former National Chairman of the Royal British Legion on receiving a CBE in her Majesty’s Honours.

Congratulations to Capt (Retd) **Charles Cole**, MVO. R.M. Director of Music, The Royal British Legion for services to Music and Remembrance who receives the OBE

### Bank Holiday 2020

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2020, should have been the date for the Mayday bank holiday next year, but the Government have announced that it will be moved to Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May to coincide with Victory in Europe (VE) day, as it will be the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

It is hoped Branches, in conjunction with local Councils and groups, will commemorate this special day in history.

If your Branch is organising something, please let the Hampshire Link and Hampshire Facebook know so we can help spread the word.

### Battlefield Tours

For the last thirty or more years I have run trips to the First World War sites of interest around the Ypres area and the Somme. I am doing the same on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of September of this month and wondered if any of your members might be interested in joining us? Travel is by luxury 53-seater coach and Eurotunnel and accommodation is in a hotel in Arras. It is not intended to focus on military strategy but on the human cost and the sites, many off the usual tourist route, will reflect this. It is an audience participation trip with members encouraged to share thoughts and memories and the very detailed booklet provided contains many readings that I encourage participants to deliver for us. The itinerary does include the Menin Gate ceremony where participants could lay a wreath during the moving Last Post ceremony if so desired.

This is not a commercial operation and is done at cost because I believe it is something that everyone should do at least once in their life time. The cost depends on numbers but will not exceed £180 per person to include all travel, museum entrance costs and Bed and Breakfast.

### Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2019

06.00 hours : Local pick-up in lay-bye besides entrance to Treloar School and College, Holybourne, GU34 4EL  
Travel to Folkestone for Eurotunnel Crossing  
Disembark & travel to Poperinge  
Visit to the Death Cells, Sanctuary Wood  
Tyne Cot Cemetery, Langemark-Poelkapelle

German Cemetery, Continue to Essex Farm ADS  
Dug-outs & Cemetery, Yorkshire Trench  
St. Martin's Cathedral and free time in Ypres  
20.00 hours: Last Post at the Menin Gate  
Transfer to Arras  
Check-in at accommodation

### Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2019

#### Day Two: The Somme

08.30 hours: Depart after breakfast  
Replenishment stop at Super Market  
Travel to the Somme  
Serre & the Accrington Pals' Trench  
Newfoundland Park Preserved Battlefield  
Ulster Memorial in passing Thiepval Ridge & Memorial to the Missing, Mansell Copse  
Devonshire Trench, La Boisselle and Lochnagar Crater, Fricourt German cemetery in passing Dartmoor cemetery, Travel to Vimy Ridge & Canadian Monument  
Depart for Calais  
Eurotunnel crossing to Folkestone  
Late evening drop-off

#### *Why come?*

The First World War and the sacrifices made still resonate more than a hundred years after hostilities ceased. Ever wondered why? Join our trip to sites of outstanding visual and emotional impact and see for yourself. World famous heritage sites and intensely moving places off the beaten track combine to make this a trip you will never forget. Perhaps your children or grandchildren have been? Perhaps you always meant to go? Perhaps you have been but want to refresh the experience? Whatever the reason, please do join us for an unforgettable two days of travel around sites in Belgium and France. See the intensely moving Menin Gate Ceremony, dine in Ypres, sing contemporary songs on the coach as we travel to Arras. Finish by visiting the incredible Vimy Ridge memorial. You will not, I promise, ever forget it.

Please register your interest by emailing me: [jerrymjj@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:jerrymjj@tiscali.co.uk) or by calling me on 01420 87010. Numbers are limited so please do not delay in contacting me.  
Jerry Janes – Tour Guide

Or if you are interested in Jerry visiting your Branch to give a presentation then feel free to contact him, as he is more than willing to visit Branches to discuss the Tours.

# HELP!



We are hoping that there might be some amazingly talented, and kind knitters out there who would donate some knitted or crocheted poppies for a project we are working on?

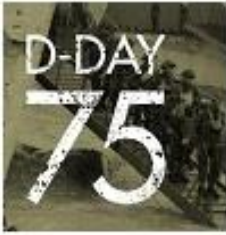
Can be as big or small as you like, with leaf / without leaf – all will get used

If you could help out, could you please send to:

Newton Newton Flags Ltd  
The Bishop Tozer's Chapel  
Middlemarsh Road  
Burgh-le-Marsh  
Lincolnshire  
PE24 5AD

Please add note of who you are in with the poppies so we can give you a shout out of thanks online





**Old Basing Royal British Legion  
Crown Lane, RG24 7DN**

Charity Number 219279

# Old Basing RBL Beer Festival

**FREE  
ENTRY**

Now in our  
**3<sup>rd</sup>** year

**27<sup>th</sup> July from 2pm**

**Come along and try our  
choice of local beers & ciders**



**Live Music**



**Freshly prepared  
Mexican  
Food**





## Events Diary

**2019**

### July

**14<sup>th</sup>** – Poppy Quest Portsmouth  
Guildhall Square  
£16 Entry Fee

[events@royalbritishlegion.org.uk](mailto:events@royalbritishlegion.org.uk)  
[www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/fundraise/poppy-quest-portsmouth](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/fundraise/poppy-quest-portsmouth)

**27<sup>th</sup>** – Old Basing RBL Beer Festival  
Old Basing RBL, Crown Lane, RG24 7DN  
Free entry

### August

**10<sup>th</sup>** – Newmarket Race Day  
Tickets £19-60, £13-30 with £3.00 donation TRBL  
Newmarket Racetrack, Suffolk  
Tel: 01638 675500 option 4

Quote: RBL19 for members prices  
<https://www.thejockeyclub.co.uk/newmarket/events-tickets/royal-british-legion-day/>

**10<sup>th</sup>** – North Hampshire Group Meeting  
Old Basing RBL Hall, RG24 7DN  
1pm-3pm

**14<sup>th</sup>** – Op Banner Commemoration  
National Memorial Arboretum  
<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/op-banner-50/>

### October

**26<sup>th</sup>** – Poppy Appeal launch

### November

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

**11<sup>th</sup>** – Armistice Day

*Please if you have any events in the pipeline then contact the Hampshire Link Newsletter and we can advertise the event for you.*

## 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/)

Facebook - Email

[Hampshire.web@rbl.community](mailto:Hampshire.web@rbl.community)

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)

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>Robert 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>Craig Spence</i>
Training Officer	<i>Mike Davis</i>
Recruitment Officer	<i>Pat Prior BEM, QVRM</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>