



1<sup>st</sup> August 2020

Registered Charity Number 219279

## We Will Remember Them

Mrs E Micklewright BEM – *Hampshire Women`s Section*

*Our sincere condolences to family and friends*

### National News

#### Covid-19 Update

Although some of the lockdown restrictions are now lifted, the virus is still a threat and therefore we strongly recommend avoiding face-to-face meetings. There is no essential need to arrange Branch meetings in person: meeting objectives can be achieved via teleconferences or videoconferences (online). Despite some shops and businesses opening we are still asked to adhere to social distancing rules in many parts of the world. Lack of face-to-face meetings will therefore help to keep you and other members safe.

Please see the attached RBL document that gives the full details about the current Guidelines that the RBL recommends.

Before undertaking any activity, you should ask yourselves the following questions:

1. Is the activity absolutely necessary? Can the objectives be achieved via other means, e.g. online or via telephone?
2. Will it be attended by people who are more vulnerable? Can they be involved in a different way, i.e. where their health will not be put at any risk?
3. Is the location safe? Can you ensure social distancing is in place? Can you ensure the area is properly cleaned and disinfected before and after the activity?

#### Standard Bearers

Standard Bearers should not attend funerals unless they belong to any of the groups allowed to attend, but they can line the procession routes, keeping a safe distance from other people.

#### Branches with Properties

The guidance that was previously issued is still extant, that being that branch properties should not be used yet, at least until they have their statutory checks complete.

**RBL staff members are still not allowed to carry-out any face to face visits or meetings until further notice. This is for the personal safety of staff, volunteers, members and the public. As such please be aware that your MSO or other staff members will not be able to attend any face to face meetings you may plan moving forward, either on an individual basis or at county and branch level.**

#### Covid-19 Community Response Awards

I'm happy to inform you that the Legion has just launched the Covid-19 Community Response Award scheme in response to the amazing work our Legion community has done in recent months. The scheme aims to recognise the outstanding community activities that members, volunteers and supporters have delivered in the name of the Royal British Legion and Poppy Scotland in response to the pandemic, achieving a significant contribution to a local community or individual.

More information can be found [here](#).

Please share this with your branches and encourage them to submit their nominations via this [form](#).

Counties and MC can also nominate.

Best wishes

***Karolina Brzeska***

Head of Membership Operations

## Annual Conference 2020

As you are aware, due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic Annual Conference, which was scheduled to take place in May, was cancelled. Despite the challenges we have been presented with, we remain committed to still holding Annual Conference this year while also prioritising the safety of our members. We are now pleased to inform you that Annual Conference will be held digitally on Saturday 19th September 2020.

Full details on how to register as a visitor or Delegate can be found on the attached National Conference 2020 PDF document.

For any queries please contact the team at [annualconference@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:annualconference@britishlegion.org.uk).

## Community Engagement

The RBL is interested in highlighting some of the community engagement work that has been done by branches in the past 12 months (or so) or even over a longer period of time – in specific regard to the BAME communities (Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic).

Could you provide any brief examples where your branch has been in dialogue/partnership/worked with any local groups' representative of these communities.

I don't need any full details at this stage – but, a brief overview would be great.

Many thanks in advance.

**Chris Bolton**

Membership Support Officer

## County News

### Branch Accounts

It is approaching a month since the "RBL End of Year Branch Account" packs were circulated to Branch Treasurers.

Please get in contact if we can help support you as a branch through this time with your accounts then we will have time to do so ahead of the 30<sup>th</sup> September deadline.

The Hampshire County Treasurer, Ges Brown, is always available to offer guidance with Branch Finances, via

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

## Branch News

### Earl Mountbatten Memorial Branch

Due to the 'lockdown' situation and the virus limitations many National RBL Events have had to be cancelled this year, as we are all well aware. Sadly, the Annual Memorial Parade and Service for Earl Mountbatten due to be held in September 2020 has also been cancelled for the same reasons. This year is the Fortieth Anniversary of the Earl Mountbatten Memorial Branch (EMMB) which was formed in 1980 by many of the Hampshire County RBL Officers and Committee, plus other valued Members of the RBL within our County. The Branch was formed the year after Earl Mountbatten lost his life in August 1979 and was set up to remember the Late Earl on an annual basis. The Branch Members were required to belong to another RBL Branch within Hampshire and to join the EMMB as an extra Branch. The operation of the Branch was also designed to set an example to all of the other RBL Branches within Hampshire and to act as the 'leading Branch' when required.

However, even though the normal Parade and Service are cancelled this year, the EMMB Officers will be carrying out a simple 'Wreath Laying Ceremony' at the grave of Earl Mountbatten in Romsey Abbey, with the help of the Vicar. Thus, the Late Earl will be remembered and the Fortieth Anniversary of the EMMB will be recognised at the same time by the Branch Officers. Due to the 'social distancing requirements' the number of people attending will be very limited. Hopefully, when the event takes place some photos will be taken to be shown in the following Hampshire Link to record the action.

### Women's Section

It is with great sadness to report the passing of Poppy Appeal Organiser, Elaine Micklewright BEM of Ellingham. Elaine had done an enormous amount for the Legion and had been a PAO since 1998, Eileen was the WS County Secretary for 18 years, County Publicity Officer before that, and for the last 3 years was the County Events Officer, who received the British Empire Medal for charitable and voluntary services.

Eileen was a staunch supporter of many charitable organisations within the New Forest and Hyde Church.

Eileen will be missed as the co-founder of By-Gone-Days, which ran from 1998-2015, and 1/3 of all the profits was given to the RBLWS. A Lady of great standing and will be greatly missed.

## Botley

A plaque containing a medal of the late Private John Henry Barfoot used to hang in the Botley Club (see picture below). Unfortunatley the Branch closed in Aug 2015, and the Club closed soon after. The relatives of Private Barfoot have requested that



past members from the Branch & club, please look out for this plaque, or if you have any information regardings is current location please contact the County Chairman [hampshire.chairman@rbl.community](mailto:hampshire.chairman@rbl.community) and help its safe return

## VJ Day Guidelines

- You may organise an outdoor gathering of no more than 30 people on the 15<sup>th</sup> August to coincide with the 2-minute silence at 11am.
- Social distancing rules must be observed. Social distancing means being 2m away from people who are not members of your own household.
- The event should be a static act of Remembrance. That is, there should be no parade.
- You may not organise an indoor gathering.
- If the weather is inclement, you may not move the event indoors.
- You may not organise refreshments, toilets or other supporting facilities that might be taken for granted at Branch events.

The full guidelines are attached to the Link Newsletter.

## Notices

### Attachments

Commemorative Events Updates  
Covid-19 Guidelines for Branches  
National Conference 2020  
VJ Day Updated Information

## 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.HamsphireRBL](http://www.facebook.com/poppy.HamsphireRBL)

## 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

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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>Ges Brown</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 Members	<i>Brian Mansi &amp; Brian Soffe</i>
CFR – Manager SW	<i>Claire Peppiatt</i>
CFR – Hampshire North	<i>Sarah Farris</i>
CFR – Hampshire South	<i>Claire Smith</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>