



We Will Remember Them

LT Col M Reggler, Col P Mitchell OBE & Maj T Paton – *Odiham & District*
Mr G Proctor – *Aldershot*

Our sincere condolences to family and friends

National News

This year's Annual Conference will be held on the Royal British Legion's 100th birthday. Members will be able to watch the live streamed Conference from the comfort of their home, and delegates will be able to vote on motions. Register as a visitor ([Register for our Annual Conference | Royal British Legion](#)) and as a Branch/County delegate ([Register for our Annual Conference | Royal British Legion](#)) by **Friday 2 April at 5pm**, if you haven't already registered. Alternatively, contact your Membership Support Officer or email annualconference@britishlegion.org.uk

County News

Membership Centenary Awards

As you are all aware, this year the Royal British Legion will come together, to celebrate the tremendous achievements of our past 100 years and demonstrate why we are just as important in 2021 and beyond.

Our centenary is about celebrating as 'One Legion', our people, staff, members and volunteers as well as our partner organisations who all play a part in creating better futures for our Armed Forces community and their families.

In the Membership Centenary Awards initiative, members and the public were able to give recognition to members in their community that have made an outstanding contribution to our work.

There are five categories that a candidate could be nominated for: Collaboration, Service, Passion, Valuing our People and Excellence.

Member nominations in Hampshire were received in every category and each category winner goes

through to the Area Awards and hopefully onto the National Awards.

To give you an idea of how much of an achievement being nominated is, just remember that Hampshire has near 10,000 members so every name listed below should feel justly proud that their hard work, commitment and enthusiasm has been recognised.

Hampshire County Nominees:

David Millen, John Coombes, Lt Cdr J. Melson, Caroline Mills, Jacki Gatfield, Ross Cannings, Mick Mills and Tim Burt.

Hampshire County Category Winners:

Collaboration: - David Simpson
Service: - David Millen
Passion: - Tim Burt
Valuing our People: - Mick Mills
Excellence: - Ross Cannings

Nominees will shortly be receiving a Certificate in recognition of your outstanding efforts.

Category Winners will move forward to the Area Awards, receive an Award Pin, Certificate and Centenary Event invitation.

Good luck to all category Winners in the next stage and I would like to thank everyone who has participated in this event, you are what makes our Legion such a great organisation.

Tim Russell

Hampshire County Chairman

Group Meeting

The First On-Line group meeting of Hampshire Branches takes place on the 10th April at 10am, and the County Chairman will be sending invite

out to join the Microsoft Office Teams meeting over the Easter Weekend. Branches should have been contacted and requested to send details of attendance, but if you haven't received an invitation, then please contact the Hampshire Chairman Hampshire.chairman@rbl.community to see if your Branch is involved.

Attendees are requested to submit any detailed questions in advance, so the relevant person can ensure a full and accurate response.

This is the ideal opportunity to interact with County Committee and hear from your new County Youth Officer, and our County Training Officer will be outlining the way forward for training.

I will provide a brief update from Haig House as well as holding the Q & A session at the end of the meeting.

A copy of the agenda for the meeting is attached to the Link.

County Training

Following on from my last briefing I am very pleased to inform you that progress is on track to start the roll out of the new Learning Management System (LMS) and the start of the online training due at the end of April. Work has almost been completed developing the first five essential training courses which will be uploaded to the LMS one at a time. These courses are as follows;

- Branch Treasure
- LOMAS
- Independent Examiner
- County Youth Officer
- County Training Officer.

It is planned that further courses will be added during phase 2 of the Training Review due to start upon completion of Phase 1. These will include the following that have already been identified;

- Branch Management
- County Management
- Possible County Treasurer.

I would take this opportunity to inform the membership that in order to fully utilise the LMS and associated courses booking system it is essential that at least one member of the Branch Committee has a RBL.community log in for the MAPs system. I would again remind branches of my offer to hold MAP's and Office 365 workshops for branch officer and committee members in individual branches. With more and

more Legion activities and information migrating online, now is the time to embrace this technology knowing that we are here to offer help and support to get you started. If your branch is interested in this then please contact me at Hampshire.cto@rbl.community. Our Membership Support Officer, Chris Bolton, is available to provide you with the log-in details for your branch. There will also be developed training material relating to use of the LMS and course booking App (Application) which will be available in due course. I will endeavour to provide extra workshop training in the use of these tools as they become available. There are also plans to develop a training presentation of how to get training using the Microsoft Teams software.

I would reiterate that the online training will not completely replace face to face training. In parallel with the new online training platform, we will also be holding certain physical courses for those who prefer to receive their training face to face. This will include the one-day Branch Management and Branch Treasurer courses. As these are courses, we can hold locally in the county there is no reason why we cannot run courses at individual branches provided there are enough delegates. It is my considered opinion that all branch officers and where appropriate all committee members should attend these courses in order to learn what their roles and responsibilities are in accordance with the Royal Charter and the Membership Management Manual. This should also be considered as a refresher for those who received their training some time ago. Obviously no physical training can take place until we are given the go ahead, but be sure that as soon as that happens then I will do my level best to get the ball rolling to enable 2021 to be a much more successful training year than 2020.

Finally, I would inform membership that there is a new version (v1.3) of the Membership Management Manual available and that there will be a new version of the Membership Training Manual available by the end of April. Branch committees should familiarise themselves with both of these important documents.

I will be expanding on all the above topics during the Group Meeting on 10th April, I hope to see as many of you as possible then.

Mike Davis

Hampshire CTO

Hampshire.cto@rbl.community

Branch News

Aldershot

It is with great sadness that I have to let the Branch know of the very sudden passing of George Proctor on Friday 19th March 2021 at Frimley Park Hospital.

George was a friendly, happy and sociable member of the Aldershot Royal British Legion and a regular at our Branch Meetings and our monthly coffee mornings in the Scout Hut. He was also an excellent Standard Bearer for the Aldershot Branch of RAFA and was proud to carry his standard at any opportunity. He had recently celebrated his 80th birthday.

He will be greatly missed by the Branch and our thoughts are with Judy and their family at this very sad time.



Gosport and Alverstoke

Congratulations to Gosport and Alverstoke Branch member WO1 Rosie Dodd for winning the prestigious Unsung Heroine Award in the 2021 Naval Service Women's Network Awards as recognition for her contribution to the RN Parenting Support and Information Team over

several years. Using her vast knowledge and experience she has provided support, advice and guidance to a huge number of Servicewomen during maternity/adoption leave.

Rosie joined the Royal Navy as a communicator in January 1980 and has served on HMS Illustrious, HMS Ark Royal and HMS Endurance and is now in her 41st year of service

Rosie is pictured here assisting on the Branch stand at Gosport's D-Day 75 weekend in 2019 being joined in uniform by her son Marc, also a branch member and following in his father's footsteps qualifying as a Merchant Navy Engineering Officer and he recently joined the Royal Fleet Auxiliary as a 2nd Engineer.



Petersfield

Christopher Pett was a member of the paras during the war serving in Egypt and the continent. He married Brenda in the 1950s and has two daughters and three grandchildren. Christopher's favourite pastime was ballroom dancing and walking.



War hero dies aged 94

A PARACHUTE regiment veteran from Petersfield who fought in the Second World War died aged 94 on Monday, February 8.

Chris Pett was born on Christmas Day 1926 and lived most of his life in and around the town.

During the Second World War he served in Egypt and Europe. The 156th Parachute Battalion fought in the Battle of Arnhem and took part in Operation Market Garden, where heavy casualties resulted in the disbanding of the battalion, the surviving men being distributed among other parachute units.

Chris was a member of

Petersfield Royal British Legion since 2013 and regularly attended the Remembrance Sunday parade in the town.

But by 2019 he was going blind, and a serving member of the Parachute Regiment (pictured above) arrived to escort him and his wife Brenda throughout the service in The Square and on the parade to the War Memorial.

Chris, whose brother Roger was named when the town's roll of honour was read out, said: "It's important this continues."

His favourite pastimes were ballroom dancing and walking, and he leaves two daughters and three grandchildren.

Branch Community Support

As I am sure you have heard things are changing in the world of Branch Community Support. We now have a new BCS Partnership Development Worker, Matt Ford, who started with us in October 2020. Plus, a newly established Standing Working Group comprising representatives from County and Branch Community Support Reps, chaired by John Boisson from the Membership Council.

In order to help shape and inform the future developments of Branch Community Support we would really appreciate you taking a little time to let us have your thoughts on what we need to develop, change or expand. This will ensure that we are listening to, and acting on, the thoughts that our County and Branch Chairman, Branch Secretaries and BCS Reps have in relation to BCS improvements. Using the results of the survey will help the BCS team and Working Group develop their plans for 2021 and beyond.

If you are a BCS registered Branch you may also have been contacted by your MSO to review the activities of your Branch in which case you may feel you have already had your voice heard. However, you may have more to tell us or may have had time to reflect and add further thoughts and comments. Equally, if your Branch is not yet registered, we would still like to hear your thoughts particularly if you are uncertain about being involved.

The survey takes approx. 20 minutes to complete, or a little more if you have lots to say. So, settle down with a nice cuppa and let us have your thoughts. [Link to Survey](#)

Hampshire Link

The Hampshire Link, The County Newsletter is here to support all Branches and Members of the Royal British Legion in Hampshire, and can only exist if Branches continue to provide articles for inclusion.

Please if you have any item that you believe will be of interest to the rest of the County Membership, please send details to the Link @ Hampshirelink@outlook.com so long as it arrives before the last day of the month it will be included.

County Websites

RBL Website:

www.BritishLegion.org.uk

County Website:

<http://counties.britishlegion.org.uk/counties/hampshire>

Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/groups/hantscountyrbl/

Facebook - Email

Hampshire.web@rbl.community

Poppy Appeal

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

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>
County Life Vice-President	<i>Maj DF Covill MBE DCM</i>
County Vice President	<i>Brian CN Soffe Robert G Knight</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>A Knight</i>
Branch Support – North	<i>Jacki Gatfield</i>
Branch Support - South	<i>Andy Knight</i>
Youth Officer	<i>Vacant</i>
Chair - Conference Committee	<i>Brian Mansi</i>
CFR – Manager SW	<i>Claire Peppiatt</i>
CFR – Hampshire North	<i>Vacant</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>