



We Will Remember Them

To all that we have lost this month

Our sincere condolences to family and friends

National News

Parades

Members present at Annual Conference 2021 requested a reminder of the below message to be sent to all branches.

Local Remembrance services and parades are civic functions that are attended and supported by The Royal British Legion, and whilst we welcome Branches being consulted and assist organisers, the Legion is not responsible for, nor takes decisions regarding the delivery of these events. Local authorities across the whole of the United Kingdom remain responsible for setting the parameters of an appropriate ceremony marking Remembrance events in accordance with the Covid-19 restrictions relevant to that location. We want to encourage our branches and members to continue supporting local Remembrance services and parades that follow government guidelines and until all restrictions are lifted - only where social distancing measures can be fully adhered to. RBL Branches and members (including Standard Bearers) as well as affiliated organisations intending to participate in Remembrance commemorations must be supportive of and fully compliant with the direction issued by their relevant Local Authority. The RBL position regarding parades remains as in previous years: **unless managed by local authorities, Legion members must not organise parades which require branches to run Temporary Traffic Management Orders (TTMOs) and nor may they provide insurance cover for someone else's TTMO.**

Magdalena de Lima Santos

Head of Membership Administration, Governance and Compliance

Poppy Run 2021

I have just moved in to the Mass events team having spent the last 8 months as the CFR for Wiltshire.

One of my first roles is to promote the series of 10 poppy runs coming up in the Autumn. The marketing material for these will be due out in August.

In the meantime, I wanted to let you know the dates and locations and ask if you are happy to get involved in promoting the event but also whether you have an active branch in this area that you would be happy to give me some details for?

- 23rd October- Cardiff and Milton Keynes
- 24th October- Southampton and Manchester
- 30th October- Birmingham and Leeds
- 31st October- Nottingham (TBC) and Newcastle
- 6th November- Plymouth and London

We also have the Virtual Poppy Runs going ahead as well as places on the virtual (3rd October) and actual (24th April) London Marathon and the Great North Run (12th September)

We also have the last few spaces available on the Poppy Quest in Greenwich on the 18th July (one for all the family) and Canoteign Falls Abseil in Devon on the 21st/22nd August

Ally Crichton

Events Partnership Coordinator

Centenary Events

Please find attached to the link, the rules for Branches spending funds celebrating the Centenary. All Branches are encouraged to participate this milestone, please register any events with the County Team and Head Office.

Training

We are proud to announce that the Membership Training Learning Management System (LMS) officially launched on Monday 10th May.

The first Branch Treasurer live webinar took place on Monday morning with 6 delegates and was a great success. These live webinars will be running 2-3 times a week with a maximum of 12 delegates per session. We are very excited to have reached this point in the project and would like to thank all of those who have helped with this monumental achievement.

The Branch Treasurer course is now classed as an essential course. This means those new to the role must complete it within 6 months of taking up the position. All other Branch Treasurers must complete the refresher training as and when requested.

We need your continued support to ensure all Branch Treasurers understand their responsibility, the changes to the training requirements and the importance of completing the course so the Legion can meet its obligations to remain financially compliant.

See schedule below of our other 4 essential courses:

Course	Scheduled LMS GO Live date
LOMAS	June 2021
Independent Examiner	July 2021
County Training Officer	August 2021
County Youth Officer	September 2021

We will be sending out more comms in the next few weeks regarding the LOMAS course. Alongside the launch of the LMS we have created new guidance for CTOs and MSOs so the right individuals within Branch/County positions are able to access the relevant training. We have attached this process for your reference. This document can be located in the Membership Training resource area on the Membership Administration Portal (MAP).

If you have any questions regarding the LMS or Branch Treasurer course, please contact membershiptraining@britishlegion.org.uk.

The Membership Training Team

County News

Hampshire County Conference

Hampshire County Conference Committee are starting the preparations for the County Conference 2022.

They would like feedback as to what kind of Conference you would prefer to attend.

They are working on the assumption that the Covid restrictions will be lifted and an indoor meeting will be able to take place.

If lockdown is imposed the Conference would go ahead as a virtual meeting, but in any case, all restrictions in place will be abided by.

Options:

- Live Conference at Bishop's Waltham
- Virtual Conference on MS Teams
- Blended Conference

Please can Branches either inform the Link, or the County Chairman of their preference to the type of Conference preferred.

Branch Account Returns

The Finance Department has finalised the Branch Account Packs & New Guidance. The forms and details contained in the email will also be put onto MAP/365. The deadline for Year-End Submission remains the same as the 30 September 2021.

However, I would greatly appreciate it if you could **aim to complete it by the end of August**, so we have time to address any problems without a last-minute rush. I have four Counties accounts to check this year.

- In some cases, I or an IE may call Branch Treasurers to ensure you have the information.
- If you anticipate any problems achieving the deadline date of 30 September, please contact me asap so, if required, assistance can be provided.

There are a few changes in requirements for your Branch 2020/2021 Returns as per the Guidance Pack, but please find a short summary below, and as ever, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions:

Main Changes:

- **Small Branch Dispensation** – Branches that meet the three criteria stated in the guide will now need to complete the attached return and

also send us copies of the full year's bank/investment account statements instead of a full return. The limits apply to *external* transactions only – money coming in from or going out of RBL charity. It does not apply to the internal movement of funds between pots or expenditure relating to the Poppy Appeal.

- ATD forms are not required for Branches using the Small Branch Dispensation. They must be submitted in all other cases.
- You do not need to send your accounts to an Independent Examiner (IE) if using the Small Branch Dispensation return.
- Finance is requesting that all Branch Accounts are submitted electronically if possible. If however, you do need to post the accounts they must be sent directly to the Branch Accounts Team at Head Office who will then scan them to me for the usual checks and registration onto SharePoint System.
- You may complete accounts as normal if you do not wish to use Small Branch Dispensation.
- A combined emailed Branch Certification from the Treasurer, Chairman, and IE sent to the MSO to be uploaded to SharePoint will suffice as a signature to the accounts, no need for ink on paper if this is not possible.

Postal Packs:

The year-end packs themselves have been sent to the printers this week, so the branches should begin to receive hard copies around 8th July and will be available on MAP/ 365.

Independent Examiner (IE):

As you know, you must get your accounts checked by an IE or qualified accountant before sending them to me for sign-off and uploading*. The Hampshire IEs are:

County Treasurer – Mr Ges Brown - Hampshire.Treasurer@rbl.community

County Training Officer – Mr Mike Davis - Hampshire.CTO@rbl.community

*Please note: if you plan to submit your accounts using Small Branch Dispensation, you **will NOT** need the services of our IEs. All I will need is the Small Branch Return and 12 months statements of your main account and investment accounts (see attached guidance).

I must have bank statements showing your Branches bank balance on or after the 30 June 2021.

Documents Enclosed (New Excel Form as an addition for this Year End)

- PDF Branch Returns Guide – This contains all changes above and usual guidance for completion of your Year-End Pack
- Excel “Advanced” version – You can enter the transactions individually, which will then total and flow to the main accounts tabs.
- Excel “Basic” version – Treasurers enter the totals as they have in the past and as they would on the hard copies.
- Excel “Advanced” Guide
- Excel “Basic” Guide
- Excel “Small Branch Return” – For branches that meet the criteria
- PDF Branch “Account Return” for printing and handwritten completion
- PDF Branch “Small Branch Return” for printing and handwritten completion
- PDF ATD form
- PDF Guide for Auditors and Independent Examiners 2021

Branch News

Petersfield

Petersfield took advantage of the slight relaxations of the current Covid regulations, to hold a mini meeting @ pub with no name.



The Armed Forces Day Flag was raised in Petersfield in the presence of the Mayor of Petersfield, Councillors, RBL Branch President, RBL Standard Bearer and Legion members.



Brockenhurst

Brockenhurst Royal British Legion Branch members celebrated their Centenary with two events on Saturday 26 June.

The first was a Lunch for 30 in the Forest Park Hotel – the first time many of us had met face-to-face for over a year. To stay within the current Lockdown restrictions, we were on tables of six within the main Dining Room, only removing our masks after we had sat down. Our guests included our Vicar, Rev'd Simon Newham, and his wife Gina and the Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Peter Wales, and his wife Vicky. The Officer in charge of our affiliated Brockenhurst Army Cadet Force was absent for the laudable reason that she was away outward-bounding.

Our President, AVM Andrew Roberts, proposed the toast to our Royal Patron, the Queen, for which in true naval fashion we remained seated. Likewise our Vice-President, Major John Alexander, proposed the health of 'Our Branch'. Chairman Captain Mike Matthews RN then asked all to raise their glasses to our present active Service men and women wherever they may be during a week when HMS DEFENDER had been exerting our rights of passage off Crimea. He noted that it was also UK's Armed Forces Day today.

The second event took place in our War Memorial Garden at 1500 when as many as Lockdown allowed foregathered to remember the 100th Anniversary of the Unveiling of the present War Memorial on 26 June 1921. Included in this short Service was the rededication of our Branch Standard which was by now sporting its special 100-year Anniversary Ribbon. It was a moving Remembrance activity on a lovely sunny afternoon with Branch members reading the

lesson, tending the Union Flag, carrying the Branch Standard, playing the Last Post and Reveille, accompanying the hymn and the National Anthem and declaiming the Exhortations. The Vicar had devised a most suitable format for this Service. We are now looking forward to the start of our second century.



Lunch in Full Swing



The branch Standard is Rededicated by Rev'd Simon Newham



hampshire
Festival of Remembrance
7.11.2021 7pm

Mayflower
Theatre

www.mayflower.org.uk
02380 711811



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</i>	
	<i>Robert G Knight</i>	
Chairman	<i>Tim Russell</i>	Hampshire.Chairman@RBL.Community
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>	Hampshire.CTO@RBL.Community
Recruitment Officer	<i>A Knight</i>	
Branch Support – North	<i>Jacki Gatfield</i>	
Branch Support - South	<i>Andy Knight</i>	
Youth Officer	<i>Steve Slack</i>	
Chair - Conference Committee	<i>Brian Mansi</i>	
CFR – Manager SW	<i>Claire Peppiatt</i>	
CFR – Hampshire North	<i>Vacant</i>	
CFR – Hampshire South & IoW	<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.Web@RBL.Community
Hampshire Link	<i>Darron Back</i>	HampshireLink@outlook.com