The Hampshire Link

The Newsletter of RBL Hampshire County
Hampshire & IOW

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Registered Charity Number 219279

Edition Date: August 2023

We will remember them

To all whom we have lost this month. Our sincere condolences to family and friends.
We remember former National Chairman, Peter Cleminson, who has passed. Peter made a huge contribution to Legion life over many years and significantly from 2007 to 2010 when he served as National Chairman. Peter was an RAF veteran.

Our mission is to safeguard the welfare, interests,and memory of those who are serving or who have served in the Armed Forces

County correspondence can be addressed to Hampshire & IOW MSO, PO Box 317, Southampton. SO45 9BS

City of Southampton Award

Archie Parsons has been a member of the Southampton Branch for almost 40 years and at the recent annual Mayoral ceremony he was presented with a City of Southampton award for services to the City and the local RBL Branch by the Lord Mayor, Councillor Jacqui Rayment.

Archie joined the Southampton Branch in 1984 and was involved in the Welfare Section helping many ex-service personnel and their families in the local community. He was the Branch Poppy Organisor for 20 years during which time built up many collection points around the city and forged an excellent relationship with both Army and Sea Cadet Forces who remain actively involved every year. During his time as PAO, with his loyal band of helpers the Branch has raised an incredible 1.2 million pounds for the appeal. He stood down as PAO this year but is still available to help whenever required.

Over the years he has worked closely with the Lord Mayors Office helping to plan Armed Forces events and the annual Remembrance Service in the City. He has been actively involved in both Branch and Club Committees since joining the Legion and served as Branch Secretary for over 20 years. He has now been Club Secretary for many years and remains an active member of both Branch and Club committees. This award is well deserved and he was proud to receive it on behalf of the members of the Southampton Branch. SP

Message from the National Chair

Our National Chair, Jason Coward has written to say that after ten years of service to the RBL, the Director General of the RBL, Charles Byrne is stepping down from his post as our Director General. He will remain in post until the end of November, in order to seeing us through both this year's Poppy Appeal and Remembrance time.

Charles had led the RBL fundraising effort and for seven years has been Director General. There is much to reflect on in terms of his contribution and achievements on behalf of our charity in the coming months. But for now, both he and I, supported by the Trustees and the Executive team, want to stay focussed on business as usual.

The search for our next Director General is now starting, led by me on behalf of the Board with oversight from the Nominations and Governance Committee. Our aim is to have identified and appointed Charles' successor before he leaves us.

Ten years is a huge commitment from anyone to an organisation, especially given the relentless daily pressures of its leadership, and Charles will therefore go on to his next venture with our thanks, respect and very best wishes.

Jason Coward and the The Membership Communications Team

Get Well Wishes

A member of the Kingsclere branch of the RBL, Ken Cox, is wished a speedy recovery after undergoing serious surgery. Ken is a long standing member of the branch and has served as Parade Marshall and in other capacities for several years in the past. From the folks at Hants Link.

Festival of Remembrance 2023

This year's Festival of Remembrance will be held to continue the Royal British Legion's commemoration of the theme of 'Service' and 'Service Not Self'. This is done through personal testimony and storytelling, through music and ceremony and the Festival also expresses the core values of Service; values such as placing others before themselves, devotion to duty and unfailing reliability. The Festival does this by commemorating these values through the Armed Forces sharing their experiences by honouring veterans who lost their lives or those who were injured in service as well as actively serving personnel. This goes further and families, descendants and representatives are also honoured.

The Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance will be held in the Royal Albert Hall, London on Saturday 11 November 2023 with performances at 2pm and 7pm. Tickets are to be sold on a first-come first-served basis, in an exclusive member sale, buying tickets directly from the ticket agent, See Tickets. Please note that tickets will only be available to buy online. Any member wishing to buy a ticket should use the online portal: https://festivalofremembrance.seetickets.com

Help to buy tickets is available through the See Tickets Support Centre here: https://supportcentre.seetickets.com/?Website=festival_of_remembrance. If there are any problems on the day, these will be communicated via the e-newsletter mailing list. If you are not already on the mailing list, please sign up here: https://selfservice.britishlegion.org.uk/security/login

The Metropolitan Police are responsible for security and ask for the following information for all guests that will be attending the Festival of Remembrance, both afternoon and evening performances:

1. Membership number (lead booker only)
2. Full name (this must be exactly as it appears on your photo ID)
3. Address (please include post code)
4. Date of birth (please use the format DD/MM/YYYY)
5. City of birth
6. Country of birth
7. Email address
8. Contact number

This information will be allocated to seat numbers so all tickets will be individually named. You will be required to submit this information in order to purchase your tickets.
The ticket agent has agreed to gather all the data on behalf of the Legion and will be GDPR compliant. The ticket seller will share the data with RBL and Met Police only. All data will be deleted within one month after the event.

Timings. Tuesday 25 July Evening tickets go on sale at 10am. All Royal British Legion members may purchase a total of 2 tickets for the evening performance online.
Tuesday 1 August. Afternoon tickets go on sale at 10am. Royal British Legion members may purchase up to 4 tickets for the afternoon performance online.

Tickets, including accessible seating, should be booked online using the seat picker through See Tickets. Payment will be taken at the time of booking. Postal applications cannot be accepted. No ticket will be issued before full ticket holder details are received.

Once confirmed, tickets are non-returnable or refundable. You are able to change the name of your guest before 31 October by visiting the Customer Service page on the See Tickets website. Members can purchase tickets for either the evening or afternoon performance, not both.
By 27 Sep All membership numbers checked for validity by RBL before tickets confirmed and issued. Invalid numbers are contacted, and tickets will be refunded.
27 Sep Refunded tickets go on resale (if applicable).
31 Oct All ticketing closes. Tickets are posted directly to the lead booker.
Ticket prices. Prices for both the afternoon and evening in 2023 (including VAT) are:
Grand Tier boxes (afternoon performances only) £40 per seat
Loggia boxes (afternoon performance only) £40 per seat
Second Tier boxes £35 per seat
Stalls £35 per seat
Circle (centre) £15 per seat
Circle (restricted view) £10 per seat
Wheelchair spaces £10 per seat
Wheelchair companion spaces £10 per seat
There will be a nominal charge of £1.75 per order to cover delivery costs.

Security. Ticket holders will need to bring with them both photographic ID and a document showing proof of membership (where applicable) for access to the Royal Albert Hall via manned Police entry points on the day.

Dress. Members of the Royal British Legion attending either performance of the Festival of Remembrance are requested to wear the Legion badge, tie and decorations.

Legion Standard Bearers. Nominated Standard Bearers are entitled to bring a guest to the evening performance. Standard Bearers will be given a unique code for the website to secure their ticket when all names are confirmed. Please do not buy tickets through See Tickets online when they go on sale. Your unique code will be sent to you in September.
Standard Bearers are required to attend the rehearsals during the afternoon of Friday 10 November (exact timings to be confirmed). Participation is conditional upon attendance of Friday rehearsals and parading in both the afternoon and evening performances on Saturday 11 November. Lunch and dinner will be provided.
Standard Bearers will receive a payment of £50 to assist with their travel costs. All other expenses are the responsibility of the Branch, County or District. To receive this payment, all participating Standard Bearers will need to provide their bank details when completing registration. This will be reimbursed after their attendance at both Festival of Remembrance and accompanying rehearsals.

Cenotaph Ceremony 12 November 2023

On Sunday 12 November 2023, the National Service of Remembrance will be held at the Cenotaph on Whitehall in London. The Royal British Legion organises the annual Veteran March Past that passes the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday for 10,000 British and Commonwealth former military and civilian Service personnel.

Eligibility for attendance.

Members wishing to take part in the Cenotaph Parade must meet at least one of the following eligibility criteria:
1. Ex-service personnel and civilians from the UK and the Commonwealth who have served the Crown.
2. Wives, husbands, or civil partners of those who died as a result of their service in His Majesty's Armed Forces.
3. A carer of a veteran requiring wheelchair assistance.

Due to the fact that any carer accompanying a veteran will be included within the 10,000-attendance cap; where appropriate, the option of one veteran assisting another for the duration of the parade should be considered.

The Memorial at Basingstoke Cemetery

Invictus Games 2023

The 6th Invictus games are to be held from the 9th to 16th September 2023, this year at the Merkur Spiel-Arena in Düsseldorf, Germany sponsored by Boeing. The German Federal Armed Forces (Bundeswehr) and the City of Düsseldorf are the main hosts. Approximately 500 competitors from 22 nations will compete in ten disciplines.

The Games were established in 2014 and give veterans an opportunity to compete in relevant sports events because they have suffered from illness or injury during or as a result of their service. This is a part of their recovery journey. From 2016 the RBL has been involved in Team UK when we began supporting friends and families of participants on their journey to the Games. This year is the first where the RBL is taking responsibility for delivering the whole team, participants included, to the Games, in conjunction with the Ministry of Defence. The team captain is Lieutenant Commander James who will take part in his second Invictus Games after competing in cycling and swimming events at The Hague in 2022. James lives with Ankylosing Spondylitis, a long-term auto-immune inflammatory arthritis condition, which affects his mobility, causing full-body pain and chronic fatigue.

Under the motto "A home for respect", the goal is to give soldiers who are wounded, injured or ill in body and soul a greater awareness and recognition in society and to support their path in rehabilitation.

INVICTUS GAMES DUSSELDORF

RBL Membership and Renewal

As with any organisation, membership is its backbone. In the case of the Royal British Legion our membership exists to provide support and friends for our armed forces in all the different communities of the country as well as for those veterans who now live at home and overseas. It is a noble and necessary cause as it provides a network of like-minded people who are dedicated to supporting our armed forces, veterans and their families on an on-going basis.

It also provides a foundation for the encouragement of remembrance of all those armed forces who have paid the ultimate sacrifice or who have unselfishly given their service to our nation in times of peace and war. There is an opportunity as a member to share in camaraderie and kindness and to provide support to all members of the RBL.

Being a member allows for the ongoing identity of our armed forces as belonging to an organisation that is there to serve and protect. Some of us belong to the RBL and contribute by means of paying our membership dues. Others do more and volunteer to fund-raise or campaign. The amount of involvement is not important; being a member is.

Members of the RBL will receive notification of the membership renewal date approximately six weeks before the due date. Members are also given a choice as to which method they would like to use to renew their membership. The Membership Services team is on hand to help. They can be contacted online at membershipservices@britishlegion.org.uk. The membership help-line is 0800 307 7773

The End of World War Two in Europe

21st Army Group formed in July 1943 in London with1st Canadian Army and 2nd British Army and support formations under command. It was under command of Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEF) and tasked with the Allied invasion of Europe (Operation Overlord). Its formations deployed in North France, Luxembourg, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany from June 1944 until the end of the war in 1945. It was re-organised as the British Army of the Rhine (BAOR) for post war occupation of Germany.

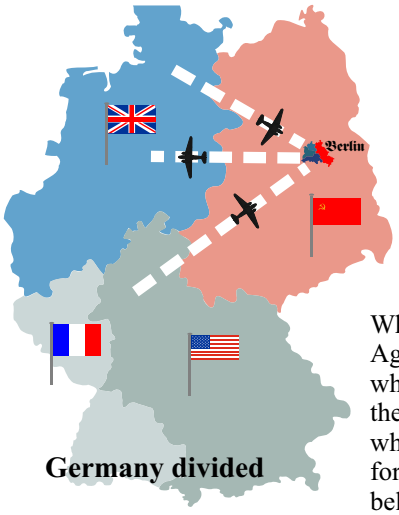
The result was many years of British armed forces presence in Germany. Many national servicemen served in Germany and today many of these veterans are the backbone membership of the RBL. We pay tribute to them and their valuable service. DW.

21st Army Group

Control Commission Germany

Cap badge

This formation sign was adopted in 1945 and designed on the flash for GHQ Troops of 21 Army Group. It consisted of military personnel who remained in Germany after the war ended, providing security for those responsible for the reconstruction of Germany. The flash was sometimes referred to as Charlie Chaplin's Guard.



Germany divided

First pattern flash

Second pattern flash

When World War Two ended the Yalta and Potsdam Agreements stipulated that Allied troops remain in Berlin where they deployed until the end of the Cold War to garrison the city. It was a brigade size force comprising British troops who wore the above flash and an American contingent. The formation changed names on several occasions as illustrated below-

November 1946 - British Troops Berlin
February 1949 - Area Troops Berlin
October 1953 - Berlin Infantry Brigade Group
December 1963 - Berlin Infantry Brigade
April 1977 - Berlin Field Force
January 1981 – September 1994 Berlin Infantry Brigade

British Troops in France

This formation sign was worn by GHQ and Line of Communication Troops for 21st Army Group, hence the similarity in the badge. The flash was worn by all troops in formations doing lines of communications tasks as well as by those who were in a unit that did not have its own specific flash to wear.

HQ British Tps in Low Countries

This formation was known as HQ Lines of Communications 21st Army Group. Its HQ was in Brussels and was the administrative HQ for all British units in Belgium and the Netherlands once hostilities had stopped in North west Europe. It was responsible for a wide variety of logistics and personnel related tasks. It included Chief Engineers (Works) and other Engineers units under direct command.

City of Berlin

Other News

Invitation to Attend

RAFA are hosting a talk at the Basingstoke Labour Clup in South Ham on 7th August at 7.30pm. The guest speaker is Sgt Rosie Dicks, a reservist with 256 Field Hospital and Dep Sister in ICU at Basingstoke. She will be talking about her role responding to Ebola in Africa and setting up the Nightingale hospitals during the Covid pandemic. The talk is open to all RAFA and RBL members and their guests.

More details are on the RAFA webside - https://branch.rafa.org.uk/basingstoke/events/guest-speaker-sgt-rosie-dicks

Poppy Appeal Matters

North Hampshire Poppy Appeal. If you have some time and wish to volunteer for this worthy cause please contact our North Hampshire County Community Fund-raiser, Sarah Ferris.

(ph 07742 762988, email SFerris@britishlegion.org.uk)

Earl Mountbatten Memorial Service

Earl Mountbatten Memorial Service

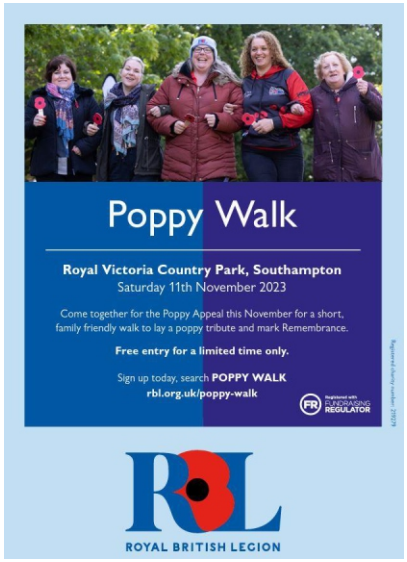
Date. Sunday 10th September 2023
Place. Romsey Abbey
Time. 15:00 hours

All are welcome. If you would like to attend please contact the Branch Secretary. For further information please contact Patti Cunningham, Romsey Mountbatten Branch Secretary.
Email: romsey.secretary@rbl.community

The Italy Star 1939 - 1945

This medal was awarded for operational service on land in Italy, Sicily, Greece, Yugoslavia, the Aegean area, the Dodecanese Islands, Corsica, Sardinia and Elba at any time between 11th June 1943 and 8th May 1945.

It was awarded to all British and Empire troops who served in the above areas of operations.



Please support the Poppy Walk to be held at the Royal Victoria Country Park, Southampton on 11 November 2023.

Sign up for a personal remembrance day at rbl.org.uk/poppy-walk

Standard Bearer Training

Hampshire Standard Bearer Training 2023

	EASTLEIGH Pavilion on the Park 1 Kingfisher Drive, Eastleigh, SO50 9LH		ASH Ash Manor School Manor Rd, Ash, Aldershot GU12 6QH	
Please arrive ten minutes before training starts to prepare yourself and your Standard.				
January	No Training		Tuesday 10th	19:00 - 20:00
February	Sunday 12th	14:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 7th	19:00 - 20:00
March	Sunday 12th	14:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 7th	19:00 - 20:00
April	Sunday 9th	14:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 18th	19:00 - 20:00
May	Sunday 14th	14:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 9th	19:00 - 20:00
June	Sunday 11th	14:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 6th	19:00 - 20:00
July	Sunday 9th	14:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 11th	19:00 - 20:00
August	Sunday 13th	14:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 15th	19:00 - 20:00
September	Sunday 10th	14:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 12th	19:00 - 20:00
October	Sunday 8th	14:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 17th	19:00 - 20:00
November	Sunday 5th	14:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 7th	19:00 - 20:00
December	No Training		No Training	

Please note: All Standard Bearer must attend two training sessions a year, and be physically fit enough to carry the Standard, as agreed when they signed the yearly MS1 Form.

Hampshire Parade Marshal: David Graham
E: Hampshire.ParadeMarshal@rbl.community M: 07597 455112

As per RBL regulations all Standard Bearers must undergo two training sessions per year. This is so that Standard Bearers are compliant with health and safety as well as fitness requirements.

Discipline is a combination of knowledge and courage; that is, the knowledge of what is right and wrong and the courage to do what you know is right. Unknown

County Contact Details

Postal Address for Hampshire County Committee
Hampshire & IOW MEO (or Name), Royal British Legion, 199 Borough High St, London SE1 1AA

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.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 (Colonel (Retd) Dudley Wall MSM MMM) with any information or articles by the 20th of the month at:
HampshireLinkDW@yahoo.com

ALL LEGION INQUIRIES
(including Welfare requests) should be directed to the national call centre
0808 802 8080

County Personnel
Patron Lt Gen Sir Mark Mans KCB CBE DL
County President Col Andrew King
County Vice President Brian C.N. Soffe
County Vice President Robert G Knight
Chairman Tim Russell Hampshire.Chairman@rbl.community
Vice-Chairman Robert Bartlett Hampshire.vicechairman@rbl.community
Treasurer Ges Brown hampshire.treasurer@rbl.community
Committee members - Melvyn Cole, John Davies, Paul Holyoake, Brian Mansi, Avril Mitchell, Vic Thorn
County Management Board: Tim Russell, Robert Bartlett, Ges Brown, Melvyn Cole

Conference Committee: Chairman Brian Mansi, Secretary Avril Mitchell, Pat Prior BEM QVRM, Melvyn Cole, Chris George, Nigel Thomas.
Cups Sub-Committee: Brian Mansi, Avril Mitchell, Pat Prior BEM QVRM

Annual Conference Delegate: Tim Russell

Community Fundraiser North: Sarah Ferris
Community Fundraiser South: Jackie Lax
Regional Fundraiser Manager: Clare Peppiatt

Poppy Appeal Coordinator - North: Jacki Gatfield
Poppy Appeal Coordinator - South: Pat Prior BEM QVRM

Principal Recruiting Officer: VACANT
Training Officer: VACANT
Community Support: VACANT
CCSC: VACANT

Clubs Liaison: Paul Holyoake
Communications Support: Dudley Wall
County Webmaster: Avril Mitchell Hampshire.Web@rbl.community
Youth Officer: Steve Slack Hampshire.CYO@rbl.community
Events Support: VACANT

Parade Marshall: David Graham, Deputy Parade Marshall: VACANT

County Standard Bearer: Pete Pullin, ppullin@britishlegion.org.uk
Deputy County Standard Bearer: Andy Cassidy
County Youth Standard Bearer: Amelie Neal

Ceremonial Support: David Graham, Karen Graham
County Padre: Reverend Mark Christian
Golf Officer: Rick Bourne
Membership Engagement Officer: Pete Pullin, Membership Engagement Manager: Martin Pelling
Membership Council Representative: Gerry Nunn
Public Relations Officer: VACANT
Independent Examiners: Ges Brown, Mike Davis

UK Honours Awards: County President, County M.E.O.