

We will remember them

To all whom we have lost this month. Our sincere condolences to family and friends.

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



**RBL Branches
and Membership**



RBL Branch Fees

Kingsclere branch in north Hampshire is in the process of either closing down or transferring its assets and funds to Hants County as it is no longer a viable branch. Their chairman is resigning his post due to work and other commitments and nobody is willing to take over the role. It is not the only branch in trouble. Basingstoke, Overton and District Branch went through this process over a year ago. There are other branches in the same position. Under such conditions two meetings must be held to try and keep the branch viable. The last meeting of the Basingstoke branch was a few weeks ago and a total of 5 members (out of over 80+) attended. One wonders how many other branches are in the same situation? The assumption must be made that the RBL has little to offer its members to get them to stay.

Personally, I have reflected on this many times and ask - why do we belong to the RBL? I know what I personally want from the organisation (as a veteran of 33 years in the Rhodesian forces and then the South African army). For me, something is missing.

The truth is that I get far more satisfaction from the occasional visit to our local veterans coffee club and in attending the local annual Remembrance Parade! As the lone editor of this newsletter (a task I do willingly, despite it being a time consuming task to say the least), I have also wrestled with the dilemma of how much time and effort is spent on the RBL versus the commitments of everyday life. It is definitely a noble cause and serving members, veterans and their families may find themselves in an untenable position and desperately need help. The RBL is there to provide it. Maybe it is time for our extremely important organisation to have a radical rethink! DW

Branch Administration and Joining Fees for 2026/2027. The new financial year commences on 1st October 2026 and the Membership Services at HQ, Haig House have asked for us to pass on a message to all branches to review and update branch fees. Branches may wish to consider whether to introduce or adjust a branch administration fee or a joining fee for branches, to support the administrative costs associated with engaging and recruiting members. If a branch decides to implement a Branch Administration Fee, it will apply to members with a joining or renewal date between 1st October 2026 and 30th September 2027. If branches decide to implement a Branch Joining Fee, it will apply to all new members joining within the same period. All branch fees are collected centrally alongside the membership fee and are subsequently returned to your branch on a quarterly basis.

If branches wish to introduce new fees or adjust existing ones, they need to ensure that membership Services at HQ are sent in by the 29th May 2026. Should branches prefer to maintain their current branch fee structure into the next financial year, no further action is required. If HQ does not hear from branches by the deadline, they will proceed with the existing rates. Please note, once the fees are set for the financial year 2026/2027 post the 29th of May deadline, HQ will not be able to accommodate changes until the subsequent financial year.

If your branch has recently updated its bank account details, it is crucial to inform your Membership Engagement Officer promptly. This ensures that the quarterly fee disbursements are correctly processed to your new account. If branches require further assistance please email membershipservices@britishlegion.org.uk

INSTRUCTIONS FOR BRANCHES WISHING TO INTRODUCE OR CHANGE THEIR BRANCH FEES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2026/2027. To change your branch fees, please use one of the following methods:

Email: membershipservices@britishlegion.org.uk

Please provide the following information:

a) Full Branch Name, b) BR code, c) Currency (£ or €), d) New branch administration fee, e) New branch joining fee, Post: Membership Services, The Royal British Legion, 199 Haig House, London, SE1 1AA.

Please provide the following information:

a) Full Branch Name, b) BR code, c) Currency (£ or €), d) New branch administration fee, e) New branch joining fee. If you do not receive confirmation from the membership team within 10 working days, please contact US. RBL Membership Services



Op Telic Service at the National Memorial Arboretum

On Friday 22 May the RBL hosted a daytime commemorative event at the National Memorial Arboretum for the 15th anniversary of the end of Operation TELIC. The purpose was to remember our armed forces who lost their lives as well as those affected. It was an opportunity to pay tribute to the professionalism and dedication of the men and women who served, from the initial invasion to the crucial rebuilding of Iraqi institutions and infrastructure. Op Telic Veterans are a forgotten recent generation of veterans. We need to make sure that if they require support from the RBL they have it. They can make telephonic contact on 0808 802 8080

Our County Standard Bearer, Pete Pullin, had the honour of carrying the National Standard at the Op Telic Service at the NMA due to the unavailability of the Legions' designated Standard Bearers. Congratulations go to him for a job extremely well done. Photos are courtesy of County Deputy Chairman John Davies. DW



Petersfield Spring Festival in Photos



The conflict began when Argentine Special Forces troops disguised as workmen, who were supposed to recover scrap metal, were landed on South Georgia island from the Argentine Navy transport ship, the Bahia Buen Suceso on the 19th March 1982. They raised the Argentine flag on the island (British territory and part of the Falklands). Four British scientists working there, reported the incident. The British government made a formal complaint to the Argentine government. The Argentinians then lowered their flag. Rex Hunt, the British Governor of the Falkland Islands, ordered the deployment of 22 Royal Marines to South Georgia Island on HMS Endurance. At the same time the Argentine

government deployed Argentinian Marines with two helicopters on board the Argentinian vessel, the Bahia Paraiso to South Georgia. On 29th May 1982, the Royal Marines were ordered to address the situation if the Argentinians tried to occupy South Georgia Island under local rules of engagement concerning illegal activities by foreign civilians. On 2nd April 1982 the Royal Marines discovered that Argentina had a military presence on South Georgia. In co-ordination with the Argentine main force landing on East Falkland, the Argentine forces on South Georgia engaged the Royal Marines who had dug themselves in defensive positions under command of Lt Keith Mills. The resistance put up by the Royal Marines was so fierce that the Argentine forces had to call in a further two helicopters and a destroyer as reinforcements. The Royal Marines fired rockets at the destroyer and damaged it, as well as shooting down one Argentinian helicopter. The Royal Marines were forced to surrender (without loss) due to a lack of supplies and being outnumbered. Thirteen British civilians were captured. In a gesture of good will, all the British prisoners were sent back to Great Britain two weeks later.

2nd April 1982. Argentine forces invade and advance on Port Stanley. Governor Rex Hunt surrenders. The next day the UN Security Council condemns the Argentinian action.

5th April. British Task Force deploys with 100 ships including aircraft carriers HMS Hermes and HMS Invincible.

25th April. South Georgia is recaptured by Royal Marines.

30th April. British Task force arrives in 200-mile exclusion zone surrounding Falklands.

1st May. Argentine Mirage / Dagger aircraft attack British task force ships. British Harrier aircraft attack Port Stanley airfield.

2nd May. British submarine HMS Conqueror sinks the Argentine cruiser General Belgrano while it was still outside the 200 mile exclusion zone. 320 Argentine sailors are killed.

4th May. Destroyer HMS Sheffield is hit by an Exocet missile, killing 20 crew.

19th May. RN helicopter carrying 22 British servicemen including SAS men crashes into the sea.

21st May. British forces land at San Carlos. Argentinian aircraft attack and sink RN Frigate HMS Ardent. 22 sailors are killed in the incident. Fifteen Argentine aircraft shot down.

24th May. Frigate HMS Antelope is hit by a bomb from an Argentine aircraft. The bomb exploded as it was being defused by a disposal officer and the ship was abandoned.

25th May. HMS Coventry sunk by Argentine aircraft, killing 19. Argentine missile attack on the British Merchant Navy vessel Atlantic Conveyor, killing 22 on board.

28th - 29th May. Battle of Goose Green. 2 Para Bn lose 17 soldiers KIA in two days of fierce fighting. Argentine forces surrender to the Paras having suffered dozens killed and more than 1,000 taken as prisoners of war.

8th June. Over 50 British soldiers were killed in air attacks on landing craft RFA Sir Galahad and RFA Sir Tristram off Fitzroy.

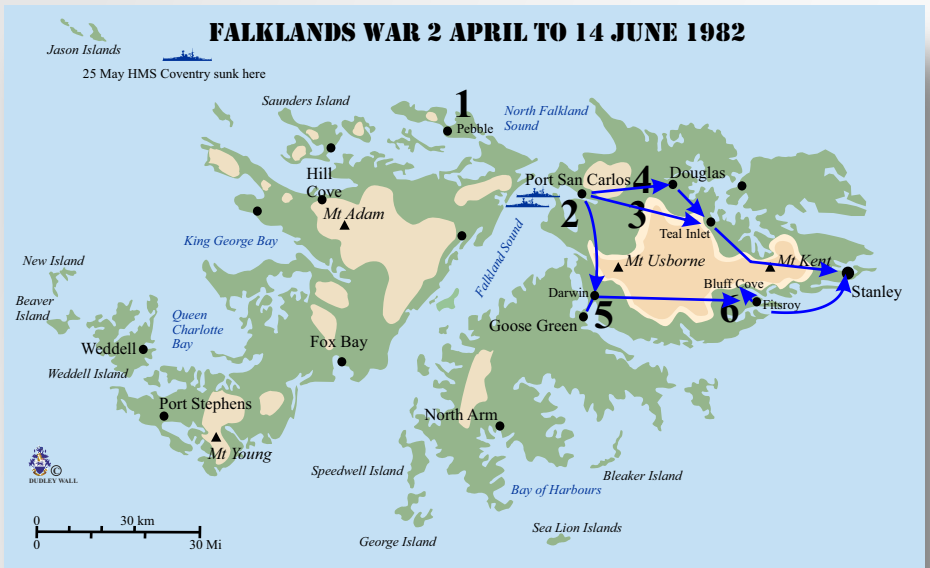
11th - 12th June. Argentinian air attack with missiles badly damages British destroyer HMS Glamorgan. British forces capture Mount Longdon, Two Sisters and Mount Harriet. A Royal Navy off-shore bombardment of land targets kills 3 Falkland civilians.

13th - 14th June. British forces capture Argentine positions on mountains overlooking Port Stanley.

14th June. Argentinian General Mario Menendez surrenders to Major General Jeremy Moore. British forces march into Port Stanley.

17th June. Argentine President Leopoldo Galtieri resigns as leader of the country's military junta.

Casualties. 255 British and 649 Argentine servicemen were killed in action during three months of fighting. DW





Festival of Remembrance Tickets

The Festival of Remembrance 2026 takes place on Saturday 7th November 2026. Many people have asked for the purchase of tickets to be reviewed and made better. This has now been done and it will give people a better chance at getting a ticket to attend. Tickets will be allocated through a ballot to ensure all members have a fair chance to purchase tickets. The ballot opens on Wednesday 27th May 2026 and closes on Wednesday 24th June 2026.

Overview of the process:

Members will have four weeks to enter the ballot through an online platform. This is to ensure that as many members as possible have a chance to secure tickets. Members will have the option to enter the ballot for either the evening performance or the afternoon performance, or both. After the ballot closes, tickets will be allocated randomly by our ticketing agent. Members will then be able to purchase a maximum of two tickets. Unique links will be issued to successful entrants one week before the booking site goes live for each performance. Once the booking site is live, entrants will be required to select their seats and will have 14 minutes to enter the details of themselves and a guest. Key dates and deadlines for 2026 will be communicated in the Membership eNewsletter, Central News and Legion magazine to help members stay informed.

Key changes to the ballot in 2026.

The ballot will be open for an additional week, giving members four weeks to enter the ballot for a chance to secure tickets. This is to provide members with more time to see our communications and enter the ballot. Members who have entered the ballot for both performances will be informed of the outcome for each performance. We want our communications to be as clear as possible, so members are fully informed. All ballot entrants will be informed of the outcome of their entry one week before the booking site goes live. This allows members time to prepare the required information to purchase tickets. The booking site will go live for each performance on consecutive days, rather than one week apart. All successful ballot entrants will have two weeks to purchase tickets once the booking site goes live. You will need the following information to enter the ballot when it opens:

Your RBL membership number – this is the set of digits displayed above your name on your membership card (as shown below), you can also find this on your renewal letter. Your membership number contains only numbers. Please do not use your branch code (e.g. BRXXXX). Info from RBL HQ

Past events of the Month

June 1957. Renewed bombings lead to French paratroops returning to Algeria.

June 1974. Twelfth Palestine National Council resolves that the PLO will use all means necessary to achieve its aims.

June 1982. Falklands War. Fighting around Mt Tumbledown, Wireless Ridge and Mount Longdon.

June 1991. 200 people killed in military coup in Haiti.



British Red Cross VAD



Remembering Kathleen Read of the British Red Cross Voluntary Aid Detachment who died aged 23 on the 25th October 1942 and is buried at Kings Worthy church. DW



The Sir Clive Johnstone Trophy

The Sir Clive Johnstone Award for training is named after Vice Admiral (retd) Sir Clive Johnstone KBE CBE who was the National President of the Royal British Legion from May 2023 to the 12th May 2024 when he passed.

This year it was awarded to the County Deputy Chairman and County Training Officer John Davies and his dedicated cohort of trainers. DW





Golf News

The 27th County Pairs golf day was recently held at the Army Golf Club, Aldershot with 36 players taking part. The winners from the Army Club are pictured with the Bob Knight perpetual trophy. Left to Right are Squadron Leader RAF (Retd) Chas Taylor and Lt Colonel (Retd) Roger Parker Royal Artillery. The collective enjoyed a great day out and raised £250 for the Poppy Appeal. Rick Bourne



Petersfield VE Day

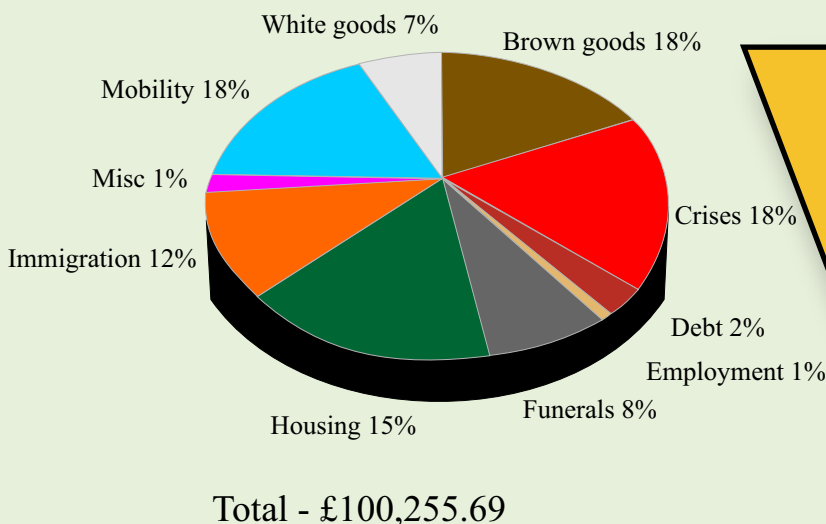


Petersfield Branch VE Day. The service was conducted by Rev Will Hughes and those present were The Mayor/RBL Branch Chairman Chris Paige, Branch Secretary Lt Col Stratton-Brown, Churchers College CCF and Petersfield RBL members. David Lloyd



What do Hampshire RBL finances get spent on?

Figures for the last quarter



Housing £14,835.21
 Mobility £18,404.32
 Brown goods £18,383.59
 Legal £11,994.00
 Funerals £7,830.67
 Crises £17,901.11
 White goods £6,983.32
 Debt £3,178.39
 Employment £311.19
 Miscellaneous £433.95



**Bramley & District
Branch RBL
welcome all to a
Battle of Waterloo
Lunch**



**1230-3pm Thursday 25th June
Sherfield on Loddon Village Hall**

**Buffet lunch followed by an illuminating talk on
the Battle of Waterloo by Battlefield Tour Guide,
Rhydian Vaughan**



Scan me!



Scan for tickets: £25 per person - £20 for RBL Members



We've been here since 1921.
And we'll be here as long as you need us.
rbl.org.uk



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/hantscountyrb/

Facebook Email address - Hampshire.web@rbl.community

Poppy Appeal - www.facebook.com.poppy.HampshireRBL

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

2026-27 HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COMMITTEE

Patron Lt Gen Sir Mark Mans KCB CBE DL Hampshire.meo@rbl.community

President Col A King Hampshire.president@rbl.community

Vice Presidents. B C N Soffe, R G Knight

Chair. R Moore Hampshire.chair@rbl.community

Vice Chair and Training Officer. J Davies Hampshire.CTO@rbl.community

Treasurer. G S Brown Hampshire.treasurer@rbl.community

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Committee and Recruiting Officer. T Russell Hampshire.CRO@rbl.community

Committee and Youth Officer. A Dawes Hampshire.CYO@rbl.community

Committee and Conference Chairman. B Mansi Ringwood. chairman@rbl.community

Committee, Poppy Appeal Coordinator S Hampshire + Conference. P Prior

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Deputy Parade Marshal. A Cassidy

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Hampshire.stdbearer@rbl.community

Deputy County Standard Bearer. A Wells

County Youth Standard Bearer. A Neal

County Padre Reverend. D Roche

County Golf Organiser. R J Bourne

Independent Examiners. G S Brown, J Davies, P Prior, A Mitchell, M Brunson

County Management Board Chair, V/Chair, Treasurer, Secretary

Annual Conference Delegate. R Moore

Poppy Appeal Manager North Hampshire. C Hayward chayward@britishlegion.org.uk

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Membership Council Representative. D Taylor dtaylor@britishlegion.org.uk

Hampshire Link. Col D Wall MSM (Rhod), MMM (SA) HampshireLinkDW@yahoo.com

Errors and Omissions Excepted

