

***You don't have to
be ex-Service to
join....***



The 2nd half of this decade commemorates the tumultuous progress of the Great War, culminating in the centenary of the Armistice on 11th November 2018. These momentous events and those of 1939-1945 helped shape Britain and define who and what we are today. The fact that the countries of Western Europe now coexist in peace and relative harmony with little prospect of future armed conflict within our borders is testament to the huge sacrifices made by past generations. The Royal British Legion (RBL) aims to ensure that these sacrifices and those from subsequent conflicts are never forgotten, and that serving and former members of the British armed forces and their families receive the support and care they need.

The Droxford and District Branch actually predates the formation of the British Legion (as it was first known in November 1921), holding our first meeting in March 1920 as 'The Droxford Branch of the Comrades of the Great War'. We now meet four times a year, usually at Droxford Village Hall with a speaker on a range of interesting subjects. Supper is available up to a maximum of 20 places. There is also an annual general meeting (again with supper), an annual dinner, a summer drinks party and a Grand National draw. Apart from selling poppies in support of the annual appeal, we are not otherwise actively engaged in RBL fundraising activity. We observe the annual Remembrance Sunday service at one of the local parish churches but that is the limit of any formal ceremonial. As you would expect being so close to Portsmouth and other military centres, many of our members are ex-Service but an increasing number are civilian. All are equally welcome.

As a member of the RBL (Droxford and District Branch) you would not only be able to 'do your bit' to support the British armed forces but also help keep remembrance alive. This is not glorification of war - far from it; anyone who has witnessed the ravages of armed conflict will be quick to dispel this myth. It is however through remembrance that we can truly appreciate more than 70 years of peace that has existed in Western Europe and ensure that 1½ million British and British Commonwealth subjects who gave their lives in two world wars and other conflicts are never forgotten. The Roll of Honour for Soberton and Newtown is reproduced below

For more information or to join RBL (Droxford & District Branch), please contact the Secretary – Cdr Rob Scott RN at robmunroscott@aol.com or 01489 877800.



RBL DROXFORD & DISTRICT BRANCH OFFICERS

President: Commodore Peter Melson CVO CBE RN
01489 878728
peter.melson2@gmail.com

Chairman & Local Links
Coordinator (see below): Captain Anthony McEwen BA RN
01489 877448
Anthony.mcewen@btinternet.com

Vice-Chairman: Lieutenant Commander Janet Melson RN
01489 878728
janet.melson2@gmail.com

Secretary: Commander Rob Scott RN
01489 877800
robmunroscott@aol.com

Assistant Secretary: John Martin
01489 877385
jmartin@clara.co.uk

Treasurer: Commander Julian Malec OBE RN
01489 892414
Julian.malec@btopenworld.com

Treasurer (designate): David Frere-Cook, DL (by 1 Jul 17)
01489 877838
Davidf-c@hotmail.com

Branch Chaplain: The Reverend Canon Anthony Hulbert MA
01489 878289
anthonic@btinternet.com

Poppy Appeal Coordinator Mrs Susie Fletcher
01489 878165
zannact@gmail.com

LOCAL LINKS ORGANISATION

Droxford Lt Cdr Janet Melson RN
01489 878728
janet.melson2@gmail.com

Soberton & Newtown Mrs Louise McEwen
01489 877448
Louise.mcewen@btinternet.com

Exton Mr David Frere-Cook, DL
01489 877838
Davidf-c@hotmail.com



Meonstoke

Mrs Joanna Buchanan
01489 877737
joanna@bellho.gotadsl.co.uk

2017 PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS

All meetings will take place in Droxford Village Hall, commencing at 7.00 pm and followed by supper. A limited bar will be provided from 6.30 pm. Details for supper bookings will be e-mailed one week prior to the meeting.

January

Monday 9th “*Operation Sophia: EU immigrant operations in the Mediterranean Sea*” presented by Commander Derek Swannick RN.

March

Monday 13th “*Whizzes, bangs and whispers*” presented by Lieutenant-Colonel Alan McComb, OBE, Royal Signals, Defence Science and Technology Laboratory.

April

Thursday 6th Grand National Draw organised by Mrs Elizabeth Parker.

May

Monday 8th “*The Wager Disaster*” presented by Rear Admiral Kit Layman, CB, DSO, LVO.

HMS Wager (a 6th Rate with 28 guns), Commodore George Anson’s supply ship, was wrecked off Patagonian Chile in 1741; some of her 140 survivors made a remarkable journey back to UK. Admiral Anson was ennobled as Baron Soberton in 1747.

June

Thursday 1st
6.30pm Summer Drinks Party at Exton Cottage, Allen’s Farm Lane, Exton SO32 3NW by kind permission of Mr and Mrs David Frere-Cook.

September

Monday 11th “*Homicide, terrorism and hostage negotiation – policing London*” presented by Superintendent Fiona McCormack, Metropolitan Police Service.

October

Monday 9th
7.00pm for 7.30pm Annual Dinner (venue to be confirmed).

November

Sunday 12th
10.50 am **REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE**
at St Mary and All Saints, Droxford.

Monday 13th Annual General Meeting, followed by a centenary commemoration to mark the formation of the Women’s Royal Naval Service (WRNS) on 29th November 1917.

Non-members are always welcome when we have a speaker. Please aim to arrive at Droxford Village Hall by 6.50pm. There is no charge but donations are always appreciated.



ROLL OF HONOUR (SOBERTON & NEWTOWN)									
S/N	Surname	First names	Rank	Unit	Age	Date of death	Where fell or memorial		Local connection
THE GREAT WAR (1914-1918)									
N	BEVIS	Jack	Private	21st Infantry Battalion, 2nd Canadian Division	33	28/08/1918	Haucourt		Chiphall, Wickham
N	BEVIS	William	Private	Leicestershire Regiment	36	13/04/1917	Arras		Chiphall, Wickham
N&S	BROWN	Frederick Robert (a)	Private	1st Battalion Hampshire Regiment		26/04/1914	Ypres		
S	BUCKSEY	John W	Private	2nd Battalion Hampshire Regiment		06/05/1918	Hazebrouck		East Hoe Cottages
S	DEADMAN	Harry	Boy 1st Class	Royal Navy	16	26/11/1914	HMS Bulwark Sheerness	(g)	West Street Soberton
N	DOREY	Frederick George(b)	Stoker Petty Officer	Royal Navy	44	26/11/1914	HMS Bulwark Sheerness	(g)	Soberton
N	FIELDER	Arthur Bertram	Sergeant	6th Field Artillery Brigade, Australian Imperial Force	24	04/04/1918	Bailleul		Laurels, Soberton Heath
N (p)	FISHER	James	Private	1st Battalion Wiltshire Regiment	29	24/03/1918	Arras		Bunns Lane
N	HILLYER	Dennis Claude	Private	King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry	21	28/10/1918	Tezze, Italy		St Martin's Corner
S	LONGMAN	Thomas	Private	15th Battalion Hampshire Regiment	17	15/10/1916	Seine Maritime		Soberton Heath
N	LUTMAN	Emanuel James (c)	Private	15th Battalion Hampshire Regiment	36	13/08/1917	Ypres, Menin Gate		Boarhunt
N	MELLISH	Sydney A	Private	8th Battalion Hampshire Regiment		14/10/1917	Bagdad, Iraq		Soberton Heath
S	MESSAM	Alfred Walter	Private	15th Battalion Hampshire Regiment	25	24/03/1918	Demancourt		Soberton Heath
N&S	MESSAM	Oliver Nehemiah	Private	Royal Army Service Corps	24	20/01/1918	Dar Es Salaam		Inglenook, Soberton
S	MESSAM	William Oliver	Private	2nd Battalion East Surrey Regiment	31	16/12/1918	Kalamaria, Greece		Soberton Heath
S	NEWELL	Leslie	2nd Lieutenant	1st Battalion London Regiment	23	02/09/1915	Pas de Calais		
N	PYLE	George Wallace (d)	Gunner	Royal Marine Artillery	23	12/10/1918	Vadencourt		Hoe Gate Farm
S	RYE	Robert William	Private	Royal Marine Light Infantry, Royal Naval Division		23/04/1917	Pas de Calais		
N	SCARDIFIELD	Wilfred Withers	Corporal	1st Battalion Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry	27	04/10/1917	West Flanders		Newtown
S	SEARLE	Alfred John	Private	Royal Marine Light Infantry		04/06/1918	Soberton Churchyard		Cold Hill Soberton
S	SEARLE	William John	Private	2nd Battalion Essex Regiment	31	12/05/1915	Ypres		Liberty Road
S	TWYNAM	Godfrey	2nd Lieutenant	11th Battalion Border Regiment	25	18/11/1916	Beaumont-Hamel		Soberton House
S	TWYNAM	Hugh	Lieutenant	Royal Naval Reserve	29	19/01/1917	HM S/M E36 North Sea	(h)	Soberton House
S	TWYNAM	John	Staff Sergeant	1st South African Mounted Rifles	32	30/11/1914	Bethlehem, Free State Africa	(i)	Soberton House
S	TWYNAM	William H	Corporal	7th Infantry Battalion, Canadian Division	33	24/04/1915	Ypres		Soberton House
SECOND WORLD WAR (1939-1945)									
N	CROOK	John	Able Seaman	Royal Navy	18	07/01/1944	HMS Tweed North Atlantic	(j)	Wickham
N	EMERY	Frank Chandler	Chief Petty Officer	Royal Navy	38	14/09/1939	HMS Royal Oak Scapa Flow	(k)	Newtown
S	HUTCHENS	Eric Frank	Lance Corporal	16th Battalion Queen's Royal Regiment	23	30/09/1943	Salerno		Soberton
N	KERLEY	Daisy Mary	civilian	National Fire Service	30	09/02/1943	Winchester/buried Holy Trinity		Kennel Cottage Droxford
S	LEGGETT	Harry Oswald	Sergeant	25th Field Regiment Royal Artillery	25	13/12/1941	Alamein		Soberton
N	LINSELL	Bernard John (e)	galley boy	Merchant Navy	20	26/09/1940	SS Port Denison North Sea	(l)	
N	PINK	George Frederick	Driver	Royal Army Service Corps	20	29/05/1940	Dunkirk		Newtown
N	PRATT	Albert Arthur Percy	Private	4th Battalion Hampshire Regiment	23	06/03/1943	Tunisia		Newtown
S	STEEL	Douglas Merson	Instructor Commander	Royal Navy	44	24/05/1941	HMS Hood Denmark Strait	(m)	Soberton
S	TANNER	Reginald Percy	Commander DSC	Royal Navy	37	22/05/1941	HMS Gloucester Crete	(n)	
N	WARBURTON-LEE	Bernard	Captain VC	Royal Navy	44	10/04/1940	HMS Hardy Narvik	(o)	Soberton Mill
N	WHITE	Robert Samuel	Private	Hampshire Regiment	21	02/10/1940	North Africa		Wickham
IRAQ 2007									
(f)	DLUGOSZ	Eleanor	Private	Royal Army Medical Corps	19	05/04/2007	Basra		Swanmore

Notes:-									
(a) Assume 'E R Brown' shown on Newtown memorial is same person as 'F R Brown' on Soberton's as there is no E R Brown listed for Hampshire Regt on CWGC* website									
(b) No trace of 'Dorey with initials 'F G' on CWGC website. Could only be SPO (not CPO) F W Dorey.									
(c) Although shown as M J Lutman on Newtown's memorial, he was known as Manny which would explain the error.									
(d) Initials shown incorrectly (?) as W G on Newtown memorial.									
(e) The only Linsell recorded on CWGC website is Bernard John who was Merchant Navy not Royal Navy as shown on Newtown's memorial.									
(f) RAMC medic serving with the 2nd Battalion Duke of Lancaster's Battle Group whose Warrior Armoured Vehicle was the victim of a roadside bomb. 4 lives lost. Commemorated at Swanmore War Memorial but mother now lives in Soberton.									
(g) Pre-Dreadnought battleship exploded at anchor off Sheerness when cordite charges stowed against boiler room bulkhead 'cooked off'; 736 lives lost and only 17 survivors.									
(h) Sunk with all hands following collision with HM Submarine E43.									
(i) Killed by lightning strike.									
(j) Frigate of 5th Escort Group torpedoed by U305 South West of Ireland; 83 lost from ship's company of 127.									
(k) Battleship torpedoed by U47 whilst at anchor in Scapa Flow with loss of 833 men from ship's company of 1,234									
(l) General cargo ship sunk by German bombers off Aberdeen; 16 lives lost.									
(m) Battle cruiser sunk during opening engagement with Bismarck and Prinz Eugen; only 3 survivors rescued from a ship's company of 1,418.									
(n) Cruiser sunk by German dive bombers during the Battle of Crete; 722 men lost from a ship's company of 807.									
(o) Destroyer lost during the First Battle of Narvik during which Captain Warburton-Lee (Captain (D) 2nd Destroyer Flotilla) won a posthumous Victoria Cross.									
(p) Also on Denmead War Memorial									
* Commonwealth War Graves Commission.									

