



Northamptonshire Legion Matters

EDITION 1

January 2023

We're back!!

Welcome to the
first County
Newsletter of the
New Year



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Editor's Notes

Hello friends and colleagues. We've decided to bring back the regular County Newsletter to help spread the word across our wonderful Legion community here in

Northamptonshire and encourage branches to get involved with others by submitting their news and details of social events.

The aim is to issue the Newsletter every 2 months so we need you to send in your articles etc in Word format with pictures attached.

All submissions please by email to:

Northamptonshire.minutingsecretary@rbl.community

Top News

The first key event of 2023 will be the Annual County Conference which takes place in the Council Chambers, Northampton starting at 10.30am on Saturday 21st January 2023.

If you are not an official branch delegate, you can still attend as a visitor. Please note that there is no on-site parking and entrance will be via the George Row entrance.



2022 Poppy Appeal

by Giles Coleman

"I am delighted to tell you that the current total for the County for this year's Poppy Appeal is £433,221.54. This reflects all the great work by branches and volunteers who work tirelessly each year for our annual fundraising event".



A MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN

by Ian Byrnes

"At the start of this New Year, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all members and supporters for their continuing dedication to helping our cause of providing support to serving soldiers, veterans and their families across Northamptonshire.

Despite a slight fall in county membership numbers during 2022, national membership has increased by 7.2%. Our strength still lies in the dedication of branch officers keeping their branches going and encouraging local recruitment and retention, and this is indeed one of the themes which we will be following up on in 2023.

Please support this Newsletter to help us keep in touch with each other and spread the word!!!".



VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR ALL THE LATEST INFORMATION

[HTTPS://COUNTIES.BRITISHLEGION.ORG.UK/COUNTIES/NORTHAMPTONSHIRE/](https://counties.britishlegion.org.uk/counties/northamptonshire/)

County Committee Meeting Key Points

The County Committee met on 14th December 2022 to discuss a wide range of issues including:

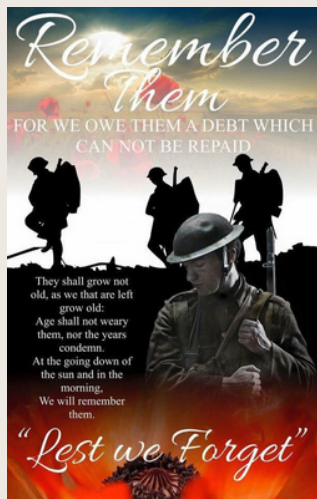
- To agree the following motions to be submitted to County Conference on 21st January 2023:
 - a. To introduce on-line banking for branches;
 - b. To ensure that current branding of the Legion is compliant with the Royal Charter (2 motions);
 - c. To compile all RBL training records centrally
 - d. One other motion was not agreed (no Branch seconding).
- To discuss arrangements for the County Conference and allocate tasks.
- To agree that all branches parading their standards at the County Conference should attend the next training session.

Commemorations Diary

We have put together a list of significant dates when branches may wish to organise commemorations or events. A copy is available on the County webpage at: <https://counties.britishlegion.org.uk/counties/northamptonshire>

Meeting Dates - January to March

09 Jan - Byfield Branch meeting
09 Jan - Rushden Branch Meeting
09 Jan - Thrapston Branch Meeting
10 Jan - Kettering Branch Meeting
18 Jan - Raunds Branch Meeting
19 Jan - Desborough Branch Meeting
21 Jan - 2023 County Conference
26 Jan - County Committee Meeting
06 Feb - Byfield Branch Meeting
06 Feb - Finedon Branch Meeting
07 Feb - Kettering Branch Meeting
13 Feb - Rushden Branch Meeting
13 Feb - Thrapston Branch meeting
15 Feb - Raunds Branch Meeting
16 Feb - Desborough Branch Meeting
01 Mar - Deadline for Newsletter Input
06 Mar - Byfield Branch Meeting
06 Mar - Finedon Branch Meeting
07 Mar - Kettering Branch Meeting
13 Mar - Rushden Branch Meeting
13 Mar - Thrapston Branch Meeting
15 Mar - Raunds Branch meeting
16 Mar - County Committee Meeting
16 Mar - Desborough Branch Meeting



Standard Bearers Training

10 th January
14th February
14th March



Training takes place at the Army Reserve Forces Centre Drill Hall, Clare Street, Northampton from 19.00 to 20.30hrs

Mikesh Mistry has published a book that has taken him years to research and write on Northamptonshire in the First World War. It's been a long time coming but we think it is worth the wait! It is beautifully produced, with over one hundred illustrations inside and printed on high quality paper. Available on Amazon now and 50% of profits go to the RBL!!





County Committee

President	Col John Royle MBE TD
Chairman	Ian Byrnes
Vice Chairman	Bill Rose
Treasurer	Tyler Jeffs
CSC/Parade Marshal	Nick Fall
Recruitment Officer	Phil Blanchard
Youth Officer	Sean McDiarmid
Minutes Secretary	Steve Thatcher
Committee Members:	Irene Blanchard
	Pat Cutting
	Mike Nichols
	Robbie Paice
	Phil York

County Standard Bearers

County Standard Bearer	Chris Barlow (wef 21 Jan 23)
Deputy Standard Bearer	Adam Brooks (wef 21 Jan 23)

Other County Officials

Community Fundraiser	Gile Coleman
MSO/MEO	Falak Bibi

County Office

The County Office is located at the Army Reserve Forces Centre, Clare Street, Northampton NN1 3JQ and is open every Tuesday from 10.00 to 14.00 hrs.

Telephone: 01604 630966

(Answerphone out of office hours)

Please note that the County Office will reopen on Tuesday 3rd January 2023

And finally

WELCOME

Branch Centenaries 2023

12 Apr - Desborough
20 Jun - Burton Latimer



Branch News

Finedon, Irthlingborough & District

After many years of dedicated service to the Branch as President, Michael Shipton handed over to Al Ashworth on 5th December 2022. Michael has been a Legion member for decades and has served as a County Officer and Standard Bearer, as well as Branch Secretary, Vice Chair and President. His family has a long tradition of being in the Legion; his father was a founding member of Finedon Branch in 1922. Michael is the only branch member to have been award the Legion's Gold Membership Award.



Michael Shipton (right) hands over his jewels of office

New Branches in 2023

Nether Heyford - Foundation Meeting held on 10 Oct 22; Membership Council confirmation awaited.

Brixworth - Foundation Meeting taking place on 16 Jan 23 at "The Library" of the George Pub, Brixworth.

Editor's Contact: Northamptonshire.MinutingSecretary@rbl.community