

Welcome to this Second Edition of your County Newsletter



In this issue

- Editors Notes
- Top News
- Youth Group Affiliations
- County Chairman's Corner
- County Committee Meeting
- Meetings Dates
- Standard Bearers Training
- War Memorial Competition
- County Committee
- County Conference 2023
- Did You Know?
- Welcome to Brixworth
- Branch Training

Editor's Notes

It's been a busy few weeks here at the County Office with the 2023 County Conference swiftly followed by the January County Committee meeting - so lots to tell you about!

Plus, in this edition, all you need to know about locally-provided training available to branches.

Please remember to send in your branch articles/events etc in Word format with pictures attached.

All submissions please by email to:

Northamptonshire.minutingsecretary@rbl.community

Top News

County Committee has just received details of the grants, totalling £66,000 made in the County in 2021-2022. The County Committee will decide what contribution they will make to help meet the cost (called Almonisation) at it's next meeting



The County Union Standard and Kettering Branch Standard were dedicated on 15/01/2023 at Raunds St Peters Church

The County website is now fully up to date - please pay us a visit!!



Youth Group Affiliations

Our County Youth Officer, Tyler Jeffs, is contacting all branches to find out how many have youth affiliations set up and to liaise with all branches to encourage closer working with youth groups. For further information please email Northamptonshire.CYO@rbl.community

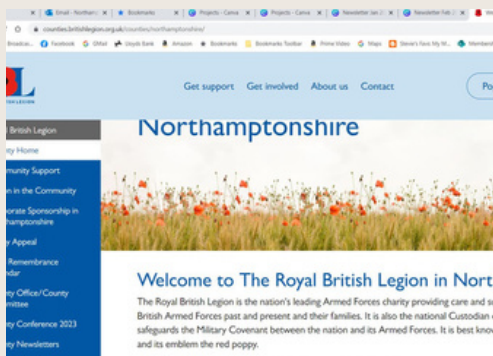
County Chairman's Corner!

Those of you who attended the County Conference will know that one of my key aims this year is to improve communications across the County and this Newsletter includes much of the work we are doing to facilitate this including branch training.

Please help us to help you!!

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR ALL THE LATEST INFORMATION

<https://counties.britishlegion.org.uk/counties/northamptonshire/>



County Committee Meeting

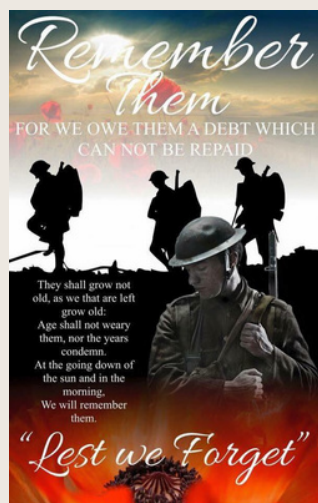
Key Points

The County Committee met for the annual meeting on 21st January 2023 to discuss a wide range of issues including:

- Allocation of County Committee Appointments (see Page 3)
- To review the County financial position.
- To review and follow-up on action points from the 2023 Annual County Conference.
- To review progress on the the new County Plan for 2023-2026.
- To agree the IT Strategy for the County.
- To receive a report from the Community Fundraiser.

A copy of the minutes and supporting papers have been issued to all branches.

If you wish to raise an issue with the County Committee please forward a written request to Northamptonshire.Minuting_Secretary@rbl.community for it to be added to the agenda of the next meeting.



Commemorations Diary Meeting Dates - February to March

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>

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
06 Mar - Byfield Branch Meeting
06 Mar - Finedon Branch Meeting
07 Mar - Kettering Branch Meeting
07 Mar - Deadline for Newsletter input
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

If your meeting date is not on the list or is incorrect please let the Editor know

Standard Bearers' Training

14th February
14th March



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

War Memorial Competition 2023

County will return to organising a War Memorial Competition this year - details of how branches can get involved will be published shortly





County Conference 2023

On Saturday 21st January 2023, 50 attendees took part in our Annual Conference in the Council Chambers, Northampton.

We were very fortunate to have as our keynote speaker the National Chairman, Jason Coward.

A brief description of the event together with photos is now available on the County website.

2023 County Committee

President	Col John Royle MBE DL
Chairman/Training Officer	Ian Byrnes
Vice Chairman/Recruitment Officer	Phil Blanchard
Armed Forces Covenant Officer	Bill Rose
Treasurer/ Youth Officer	Tyler Jeffs
CCSC/Parade Marshal	Nick Fall
Publicity Officer	Phil York
Club Liaison Officer	Robbie Paice
Minutes Secretary	Steve Thatcher
Committee Members:	Irene Blanchard Pat Cutting Mike Nichol



A copy of the Conference minutes and supporting papers have been issued to all branches.

Did you Know?

All members have access to a Membership Self-Service Portal where they can renew their membership, change their address, email address etc, transfer to another branch or change membership payment options. You can also indicate whether you want to receive a paper copy of the Legion Magazine or not.

Please keep your membership details up-to-date.

If you have not yet logged into the Portal you can create an account on-line now by visiting
<https://selfservice.britishlegion.org.uk/security/login>

We are delighted to welcome the branches newly approved by Membership Council at Brixworth and Nether Heyford into The Royal British Legion family!!!

County Standard Bearers

County Standard Bearer	Chris Barlow
Deputy Standard Bearer	Adam Shanahan-Brooks

Other Legion Staff

Community Fundraiser	Giles Coleman
Membership Engagement Officer	Tom Coen

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

(linked to Answerphone if out of office hours to 07936 463429)

WELCOME

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

Branch Training

Branch Officer IT Training

The County Committee have agreed to a new IT Strategy as part of an overall drive to improve communications between MEO, Counties and Branches by encouraging all Chairs and Secretaries (initially) to make use of the standard email address provided (e.g. [Branch].[Appointment]@rbl.community)

This email account is part of the wider system used by the Legion called MAP (Office365) which provides branch officers access to:

- MS Outlook email.
- A comprehensive Membership Resource Library of handbooks, forms and policy guidance (no need for branches to download stuff!!).
- Links to the BCS Reporting System.
- Access to the Branch website design area.
- Contact listing for TRBL departments.
- Access to County Shared documents.
- Access to the branch working area where all documents/photos etc can be produced and stored securely.
- Access to the branch membership listing which is updated weekly.

If you are already familiar with either Outlook or GMail, you will have no problem using the Legion email system. You can even log in via your smartphone using your Legion credentials.

Standard Bearers' Training

Monthly training sessions for standard bearers are held at the Army Reserve Centre, Northampton (see details on Page 3). If you fancy having a go and learning a new skill, all equipment will be provided for you - just contact Northamptonshire.ParadeMarshal@rbl.community to book your place.



Branch Community Support (BCS) Training

All County Branches are strongly encouraged to nominate a member to undergo BCS training without which they will be unable to provide Legion support to beneficiaries in their branch area.

The training consists of on-line and face-to-face training. Trainees will also be required to be DBS cleared before assuming their BCS responsibilities.

If your branch is not yet delivering BCS support in your area, then please contact the County BCS Co-ordinator, Nick Fall, on Northamptonshire.CCSC@rbl.community who will make the necessary arrangements.

Branch Management Training

All branch officers and committee members who have signed the MSI, our contract to abide by TRBL rules, are required to attend Branch Management Training every three years as part of their TRBL commitment.

Please visit the Training Page of the County website for full details of all training currently being offered.