

DEPUTY STANDARD BEARER – GEOFF CAMERON

Hi there, my name is Geoff Cameron and I became the deputy standard bearer for the Sedgeford and District Branch in 2018 when my wife and I attended the Grand Pilgrimage 90 in Ypres, Belgium. My training was carried out the previous spring and summer.

The service at the Menin Gate was extremely moving as you can imagine. As an ex paratrooper said to me "it gets you in the throat". My wife Suzanne laid the wreath for the branch. It was an honour for us to attend and an event we will never forget. Also credit goes to The Royal British Legion for the excellent organisation in marshalling roughly 2000 standard bearers and wreath layers. So that was my baptism of fire at standard bearing. Since then I have carried the standard at various ceremonies and events, for example the Royal Norfolk Show and the D-Day 75th Anniversary service at the war memorial in King's Lynn.

Anyway for this to happen I had to be born somewhere which was in Blackpool in 1956. As a youngster I lived in Inverness, Scotland and Norwich. Worked in civvy street for 3 years getting nowhere really. I kept getting made redundant. Applied for various engineering jobs but nobody wanted me. It was very degrading going to collect your dole money. So there I was in Norwich collecting my dole money and walked past the RAF Careers Office. The rest as they say is history, within 6 weeks I was walking through the gates at RAF Swindon to start my square bashing. The Royal Air Force kept me for 22 years as an Electrical Technician where I learned about electrical and electronic engineering.

I have a lot to thank the RAF for, it gave me a purpose in life, it taught me an excellent trade and it sent me to some exotic locations like the Falkland Islands and Saudi Arabia. I also did detachments to Italy, Cyprus, Decatur, Norway, France and Zimbabwe. These last 3 were when I was with 39 Squadron (No1 Photo Reconnaissance Unit) which were predominantly for cartography (map making). Well all good things come to an end and I started working back in civvy street in 1998 as an electronics test engineer after having completed a Higher National Certificate in Electronic Engineering at college in my last 2 years in the RAF.

Sadly in 2010 my first wife Karen, the mother of our only son Sean passed away after living with cancer for 13 years. In 2011 I became a volunteer at the Macmillan Unit. Then another light came into my life, Suzanne, and we were married in 2014. She is now the branch treasurer.