

DEVON COUNTY BULLETIN

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RBL HQ News

1. **One Legion Strategy Update – Message from the National Chairman**

Dear All,

At the last town hall I said I would update you in June on how we were getting on with our proposals regarding the One Legion strategy.

Firstly, many thanks to those of you who have provided feedback, this has given us useful input to consider.

In the period since we last spoke there have been some changes that I'm sure many of you are aware of:

- **Changes to the Executive Board**

Getting the organisational structure right is a big part of delivering our strategy. As I said in February, combining Marketing, Fundraising & Remembrance under one Director is key to that. I am pleased that Gary Ryan has taken up the new role. My thanks and best wishes go to Claire Rowcliffe, who has now left RBL.

- **Delivering welfare services for the future**

We want to increase and improve the services we offer to our beneficiaries. This is a key piece of work and it's important that we get it right. We are continuing to work on what these changes will look like and how they might best be delivered. We will keep you updated on our progress.

- **Future ways of working**

We've had useful feedback on the proposals for closing our secondary offices. Some of you are concerned at how this will impact our contact with "customers" - members, volunteers and beneficiaries. We are taking the time to review everybody's responses and to look at the options before making final decisions.

On the subject of offices, it's clear there is some confusion in what we mean by *area*, *secondary* or *county* office. They are the same thing. *County* is an older term more often used by members.

- **Next steps**

Once the Executive Board has considered the feedback and the options, we will take our recommendations to the Board of Trustees in July. Our plan is to update you all via virtual town halls on Tuesday 13 July.

Many thanks for your patience as we continue to make our way through the proposals.

Look out for the invitation to the next virtual town hall. I look forward to speaking to you all then.

Una Cleminson
National Chairman

2. **HQ Branch Activity Survey: Important Request from the Head of Membership Operations**

Please see below a request from Karolina Brzeska, Head of Membership Operations to fill in a survey on your branch activities and engagement with members. Those branches that do not complete the survey will be marked as inactive and this will not provide a true picture of our branches in Devon, so please do take the time to complete the survey.

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Dear All

I'm emailing to ask for your help in collating information on our branches and their activities with a view to improve our understanding of branch engagement with its members and local community.

I'd be grateful if you could fill in a survey using this link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/nv0WBLzhPR>

The survey contains 21 short questions and should not take more than 15 minutes to complete. Please note that Q4 is not the last question as the first page suggests – once you choose your answer to Q4, more questions will appear and some of them will ask about other events/activities. The reason the page looks like it ends after Q4 is that depending on the answer to Q4, you will see a different question appearing below.

I would be grateful if you could **complete it by close of play on 27th June**.

Thank you.

Karolina Brzeska

Head of Membership Operations

3. Standard Bearer Competitions – Message from the National Chairman and Chairman of the Ceremonial Working Group

Please see attached a message from the National Chairman and Chairman of the Ceremonial Working Group regarding the RBL's decision on the resumption of County, Regional and National Standard Bearer Competitions from October 2021.

Please also see item 8 of this bulletin for further details of the Devon County Standard Bearer Competition and Standard Bearer training.

Attachment: Standard Bearer Competitions 2021

4. Minutes of the Membership Council Meeting May 2021

A copy of the Minutes of the Membership Council Meeting held on 14th May 2021 is attached, together with a Glossary of Acronyms to assist with the reading of the Minutes.

Attachment: Membership Council Meetings May 2021 and Glossary of Acronyms

5. How to Order a Centenary Pennant

A number of issues have arisen recently with branches ordering their centenary pennants, so County Chairmen and Membership Support Officers have been asked to remind branches of the process that should be followed when ordering a 100th anniversary pennant.

Branches who qualify for the centenary pennant are those branches that can demonstrate 100 years of continuous existence as a branch from 1921.

Branches wishing to order a centenary pennant should:

1. Email a request for a letter of authorisation to Desigan Munsamy on DMunsamy@britishlegion.org.uk

Please note however that branches must be less than one month away from their 100th birthday, so this month Desigan would welcome applications from all those branches formed in July 1921.

2. Whilst for some branches there is clear evidence at HQ of a branch creation date, for others where this information is not available at HQ, a request may be made for further evidence to be provided by the branch for consideration by the Ceremonial Working Group.
3. Once the authorisation letter is issued, one of the three approved providers listed in the Ceremonial Handbook (AA Flags, Newton Newton and Flagmakers) can be approached to purchase the pennant. The three approved providers are the only suppliers who can be approached for the production of anniversary pennants to ensure quality standards and adherence to the RBL's policy on the supply of services are maintained.

Devon County News

6. Branch Community Support (BCS) Awareness Programme – Come and Find Out What BCS is All About on Saturday 19th June

A Message from Kevin Jeffery, County Chairman

Over the past few months, Branch Community Support has been updated and three bespoke BCS training modules created. Devon County will be rolling out two programmes of complete BCS courses over the next few months.

BCS cannot be understated, it is our most important core activity. Our branches are on the front line to help our beneficiaries within our branches and our communities. We are the first port of call for many veterans in need and we need to respond to them from a position of trained confidence and provide them with a swift, right first-time solution.

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The BCS Programme

Each BCS Programme consists of three modules:

- BCS Awareness Module 1
- BCS Induction (1) Module 2
- BCS Induction (2) Module 3

Each of these modules are around 2.5 to 3 hours in length and are planned to be interactive and for the time being delivered online.

All three modules are vital for a branch and its representative / volunteers to be able to carry out branch community support activities. The modules are designed to give you the tools and understanding of what BCS is all about and how it forms part of the operational welfare delivery service.

BCS Awareness is simply that, a presentation on Branch Community Support to better inform the branch and volunteers on what it is about.

Induction 1 provides a more in depth understanding of Branch Community Support, the roles available and how those roles fit in to the larger RBL welfare framework.

Induction 2 – a continuation of Induction 1 where further training and development is provided and requirements explained.

Following completion of the awareness and induction modules, the BCS Representative/Volunteer will be sent:

- A link to an online DBS check
This check takes about five minutes to complete. The DBS check is free and specific to the Legion. This check has to be carried out regardless of the fact you may have a current DBS check with another organisation.
- A link to three online training sessions

GDPR
Safeguarding
Lone working

Each session takes about twenty minutes and consists of an interactive briefing followed by five multiple choice questions. Successful completion of each session results in a certificate being awarded.

- An email address and login to MAP for the appointed BCS Representatives.

Register Now for a Place
on the BCS Awareness Session
on Saturday 19th June at 1100hrs

Email: devon.cto@rbl.community and devon.chairman@rbl.community

You will be sent a link and joining instructions two to three days before the date of the module.

BCS Training – All Online Using Microsoft Teams (until further notice)

Presentation	Date
BCS Awareness	Saturday 19 th June 2021
BCS Induction (1)	Saturday 3 rd July 2021
BCS Induction (2)	Saturday 17 th July 2021

Presentation	Date
BCS Awareness	Saturday 4 th September 2021
BCS Induction (1)	Saturday 18 th September 2021
BCS Induction (2)	Saturday 9 th October 2021

7. Branch Year End

7.1. Announcement of Dates for Treasurer’s Clinics

As we approach the end of the branch financial year on 30th June the County will once again be holding clinics for Branch Treasurers (hopefully face to face) during August and September.

The clinics are designed to offer Branch Treasurers the opportunity to bring along their branch accounts for either further assistance or final checking by the County Treasurer and County Chairman prior to submission. The County Treasurer, Brian Barlow, will also be providing independent examinations for those branches that would like him to carry out their IE.

The clinics will take place as follows:

Saturday 14 th August 1000hrs – 1630hrs	Memorial Hall, Sampford Peverell
Saturday 21 st August 1000hrs – 1630hrs	RBL Club, Newton Abbot
Saturday 11 th September 1000hrs – 1630hrs	Plymouth City Centre – venue to be confirmed

To book onto a clinic please email the County Treasurer on Devon.Treasurer@rbl.community indicating which date you wish to attend and he will allocate you a specific time.

7.2. End of Year Packs

The Branch Year End Packs are currently being printed and posted copies (for those that opted to receive packs by post) should be with you by 30th June.

I will send all Year End Documents out by email to all branches next week (week commencing 14th June), so that those of you wish to use electronic versions can do so.

7.3. How to Generate an End of Year Bank Statement

All branches will need to provide an end of year **bank statement dated 30th June** with their returns. Many branches will not have had many transactions this year and banks will not issue bank statements unless you have had a transaction during the month.

So, in order to obtain a bank statement for the 30th June (and this is the only date that will be accepted by County and Head Office), if you have not had any transactions during this month, please just make a very small payment into you branch account (a few pounds will suffice), so that you can request a bank statement for June.

8. County Standard Bearer Training and Competition – Announcement of Dates

Further to the information on Standard Bearer competitions issued by the RBL Ceremonial Working Group, the County is now able to confirm that our Standard Bearer Training and the County's Standard Bearer Competition will take place as follows:

[Standard Bearer Training at The Mint, Methodist Church, Fore Street, Exeter EX4 3AT](#)
Friday 10th September and Friday 1st October from 1900hrs – 2100hrs

[Standard Bearer Competition, Riverside Club, Tiverton](#)
Saturday 9th October, with the competition commencing at 1300hrs and finishing with a Devon cream tea.

Could all branches ensure that this information is passed on to their Standard Bearers.

9. Minutes and Presentations from the County Quarterly Meeting on 5th June

A copy of the Minutes from the County Quarterly Meeting held on 5th June is attached, together with copies of the presentations that were given during the Information Session.

Please note that the Minutes include the outcome of the Branch Health Check exercise, including the grading of all branches that returned their forms and a brief outline of how the County will use this information going forward. (Please see item 6 of the Minutes).

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The presentations given in the Information Session (attached as two separate documents) included:

- RBL Annual Conference Brief
- Membership Training
- Branch Community Support
- RBL Brand and Resources
- Devon100

[Attachments: Minutes of the County Quarterly Meeting 05.06.21 and Presentations from the Information Session 05.06.21](#)

10. In Memory

From: Richard Underhill, Branch Chairman of Newton Abbot:

It is with sadness that I have to report that our Branch President Glyn Waldron passed away last Monday afternoon.

Glyn had been diagnosed with cancer some 2 weeks ago and has subsequently been supported by the branch. Unfortunately Glyn took a bad turn on Sunday afternoon and was admitted to hospital and passed away the following day.

The Newton Abbot branch will be supporting Glyn's family in any way we can during this sad time.

11. Call Out to WRENS (Serving between 1946 – 1981)

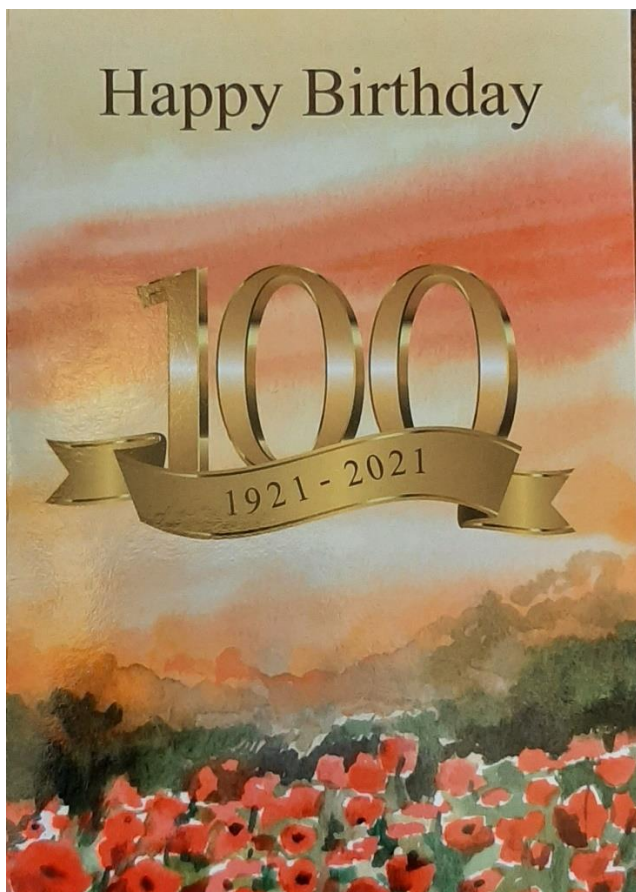
From Mandy Powell and Janette Crisp, Project Coordinators, Dauntless Divisional Photos Project

Do you have any Wrens in your family?

We are not referring to the tiny, feathered variety in the garden, but the indomitable ladies who joined the Women's Royal Naval Service. Specifically, ladies who joined up between 1946 and 1981 and did their basic training at Training Depot Burghfield/HMTE Burghfield/HMTE Dauntless/HMS Dauntless/Reading.

Dauntless Divisional Photos is a nationwide project, in collaboration with the Association of Wrens, to gather divisional photographs and memories from those training days, but also to reunite ladies with old friends, share anecdotes and relive exciting moments. So, if you, your mum, granny, aunt, donned a blue suit and aimed for a life on the ocean wave, please get in touch on either ddpwrens@gmail.com or 07765 435295/0771 990 9844.

12. In This Week



To:

Totnes Branch
Formed 2nd June 2021

Branches no longer in existence:

Kelly formed on 1st June 2021

Holbeton formed on 9th June 2021

13. County/Branch Centenary Events Diary

As County and branches are now planning centenary events either to commemorate your own 100 years, or simply to mark the 100 years of the RBL, we will include details of all your events in the Bulletin.

Please do send me details of your branch's centenary plans and events so that we can share with all our branches and members. (Please include the date, time, a brief description of your event and contact details).

Details of any new events are shaded in blue.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Branch</i>	<i>Event</i>
15 th July	Beer	Afternoon Cream Tea, Bovey House, Beer. A free event for Beer members to celebrate their 100 years. Contact: Branch Secretary, Carole Arnold on beer.memsecretary@rbl.community

17 th July	Axminster	<p>Procession through the town with a band of pipers arriving at the War memorial at 1045. This will be followed by a short service and followed by a community picnic from mid-day onwards.</p> <p>Contact: Branch Secretary, Jacqueline Symes on Axminster.Secretary@rbl.community</p>
17 th July	North Tawton	<p>RBL 100 Years Celebration Coffee Morning, North Tawton</p> <p>Contact Jill Whiteley, Branch Secretary on jillstevejackdaws@gmail.com</p>
24 th July	Kilmington	<p>RBL Centenary celebration family-oriented BBQ at the Kilmington Village Hall and field behind.</p> <p>Contact: Stafford Seward, Branch Chairman or Jean Falconer, Branch Secretary.</p>
24 th July	Sidmouth	<p>Sidmouth Branch Centenary Event – an exhibition in the town with input from the local community. Further details tbc.</p> <p>Contact: Branch Secretary, Megan Bellfield on m.bellfield80@gmail.com</p>
11 th August	Torquay	<p>Annual Service at Corbyn Head Torquay Home Guard Memorial</p> <p>Contact: Ena Pethick, Branch Event Co-ordinator on ena@enapethick.plus.com</p>
25 th September	Dartmoor	<p>Centenary Concert at Southernhay Church, Exeter with a military band. Commencing 1900hrs.</p> <p>Contact: Branch Chairman, Carole Arnold on Dartmoor.Chairman@rbl.community</p>
30 th October	Yealm	<p>Centenary Concert, Holy Cross Church, Newton Ferrers with military band and choir.</p> <p>Contact: Branch Secretary, Alan Gorczyca on for.alan@icloud.com</p>
6 th November	Dawlish	<p>Dawlish 100th Celebrations at Cofton Holiday Park.</p> <p>Contact: Alex Fewings, Branch Chairman on alecfewings@yahoo.com</p>

21 st November	Devon County	Devon County Centenary Event at the Guildhall, Plymouth. (Afternoon event). Contact: Devon County Chairman on Devon.Chairman@rbl.community
27 th November	Plymouth Crownhill	Centenary Dance Contact: Branch Chairman, Dave Carnell on dave.carnell@yahoo.co.uk
4 December	Yealm	Charity Dinner and Auction, Yealm Yacht Club, Newton Ferrers. Contact: Branch Secretary, Alan Gorczyca on for.alan@icloud.com

11. County Training Diary

BCS Awareness and Induction Training

Saturday 19 th June	BCS Awareness
Saturday 3 rd July	BCS Induction (1)
Saturday 17 th July	BCS Induction (2)

Saturday 4 th September	BCS Awareness
Saturday 18 th September	BCS Induction (1)
Saturday 9 th October	BCS Induction (2)

Online MAP Training

Monday 21 st June	1500 – 1630
Friday 2 nd July	1400 – 1530
Wednesday 14 th July	1600 – 1730
Saturday 7 th August	1300 – 1430
Tuesday 24 th August	1800 – 1930
Thursday 9 th September	1100 – 1230
Saturday 18 th September	1630 – 1800

Online Branch Management Training

Tuesday 20 th & Wednesday 21 st July	1730 - 2000
Friday 20 th & Saturday 21 st August	1530 – 1700
Thursday 23 rd & Friday 24 th September	1100 - 1330

To book on any of the above courses, please email either Devon.CTO@rbl.community or Devon.Vicechairman@rbl.community

Adrienne Long

Membership Support Officer Devon

Telephone: 07918 562976

Email: along@britishlegion.org.uk

Address: The Royal British Legion, PO Box 101, Sidmouth, Devon EX10 1DL