



DEVON COUNTY BULLETIN

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Branch Secretaries & Membership Secretaries
Branch Treasurers
Branch Community Support

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Devon County News

1. Festival of Remembrance (Royal Albert Hall) Standard Bearers

Congratulations to the following branches whose standard bearers have been selected to take part in the National Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall:

- Beer Branch
 - Newton Abbot Branch
 - Paignton Branch
 - Yealm Branch
-

2. Treasurers Clinic – Session Two

The second treasurer's clinic is on the **4th September at Newton Abbot RBL Club** and is now fully booked.

Saturday 4th September	Newton Abbot RBL Club
10:00 to 11:00	Buckfastleigh Branch
11:00 to 12:00	Dawlish Branch
12:00 to 13:00	Branscombe Branch
13:00 to 14:00	Paignton Branch
14:00 to 15:00	Kingsteignton Branch
15:00 to 16:00	North Tawton Branch

3. County Training Diary

Online MAP Training

Thursday 9 th September	1100 – 1230
Saturday 18 th September	1630 – 1800

Online Branch Management Training

Thursday 23 rd & Friday 24 th September	1100 - 1330
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BCS Awareness and Induction Training (*Subject to Change)

Temporarily Suspended	BCS Awareness
Temporarily Suspended	BCS Induction (1)
Temporarily Suspended	BCS Induction (2)

To book on any of the above courses, please email either Devon.CTO@rbl.community or Devon.Vicechairman@rbl.community or go to the Local Training Booking App on the Membership Administration Portal.

4. Farewell & Welcome

Congratulations to Martin Pelling who has secured a six-month secondment as a Team Leader in the Dorset & Hampshire Area.

In his place we welcome Lyn Lawson, known as Lee. She currently covers Buckinghamshire County and will be looking after Devon & Cornwall for the next six months. To contact Lee, email LLawson@britishlegion.org.uk.

Branch News

5. Torquay 100

On the 10th August 2021, Torquay Branch turned 100. To mark this occasion, they celebrated in true style with a birthday cake and plenty of friends. Torquay Branch members, supporters, local Legion Branches, Military Associations and Kevin Foster MP attended the event at the Livermead House Hotel.



6. National Memorial for the Home Guard

On the 11th August members of the Royal British Legion, Local Military associations, Torbay Council and Kevin Foster MP attended the National Home Guard Memorial at Corbyn Head, Torquay to remember the 1206 members of the Home Guard who lost their lives during the Second world war.

The 11th August also marked the largest loss of life in one single day of the Home Guard.

The account of Captain Charles Fursdon, Devonshire Regiment:

“The evening of 11 August 1944 was clear. A cool breeze whispered through the trees around the Corbyn’s Head battery of coastal artillery. We were there to witness another practice shoot, as was the Brigadier, Royal Artillery, Southern Command, and the Commander. Coastal Artillery, Southwest District.”

The Spectators gazed seaward. We were proud of this detachment attached to a Regular Coastal Artillery Unit. They had earned praise for consistently good work and fine shooting and we wished them luck.

The guns had fired and were ranging, then a delay occurred on one of them. Orders and acknowledgments snapped out. We raised our binoculars in expectation.

We heard the command "Fire!" This was followed by a muffled explosion.

The guns were firing at over three thousand yards, but the round had plunged into the sea one thousand yards away. Looking towards the offending gun, we observed a sheet of flame creeping outside the gun emplacement, devouring grass and camouflage and though the situation had not dawned upon the majority, tragedy was being enacted before our eyes.

And then realisation came. The breech of the gun had blown and men had died. Others were seriously injured or badly burned. Only the very lucky ones would escape.

And with this knowledge, things began to move. Our medical officer took charge of the lecture hut, which was rapidly turned into a dressing station, and in his quiet, efficient manner, proceeded to do his best for the injured. An ambulance was soon on the scene and other doctors came to our aid. The flames too were soon under control.

The casualties were hurried to the Torbay Hospital and a hush of horror descended on those left behind. Four Home Guards had been killed instantaneously and one Regular Artilleryman and another Home Guard later died of their injuries.

After a roll call and a few words of encouragement from the Brigadier, men manned another gun and fired it to break the spell and then we all went on our way.

To Captain Grant, the officer in command of the Home Guard detachment and Adjutant fell the duty of breaking the sad news to the relatives of the casualties."



7. Burma Star / VJ Day

Branches around the county remembered the end of the Second World War known as VJ Day on the 15th August.

Burma Star Garden Tiverton



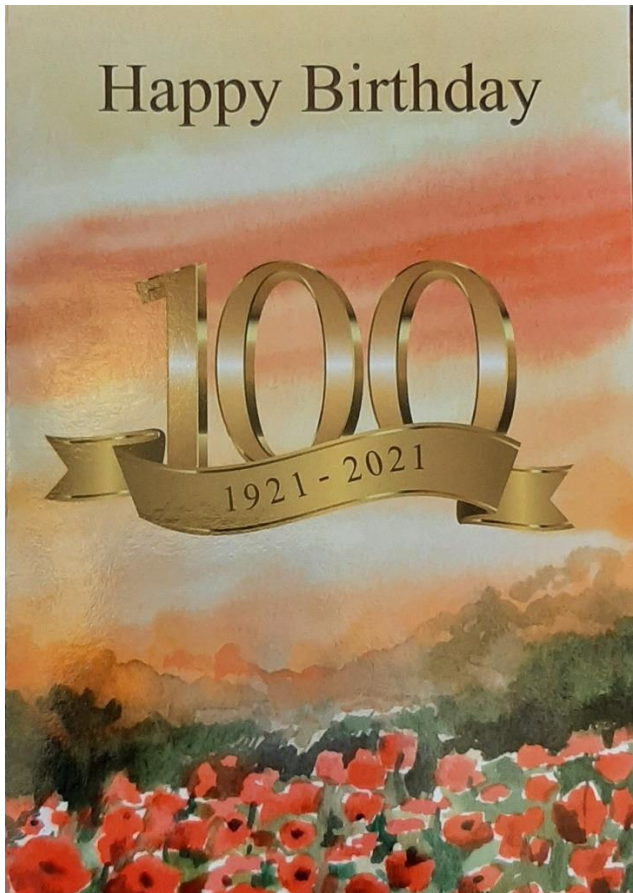
Burma Star Garden Paignton



Kingsbridge Branch



8. Devon 100 – In this Edition



To:

Torquay Branch
Formed 10th August 1921

Great Torrington Branch
Formed 12th August 1921

Tavistock Branch
Formed 29th August 1921

For more information about our county’s branch 100th birthdays visit the Devon Royal British Legion 100 Facebook page

<https://facebook.com/devon.royalbritishlegion100/>

9. Events Diary

Please send 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>
9 th September	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

11 th September	Sidbury	Sidbury & Sidford Branch Coffee Morning at the Sidbury Village Hall. Doors open 10:30.
18 th September	Starcross	<p>The Grand Opening of the Starcross (Devon) Royal British Legion Club</p> <p>In addition to the reopening of the club an event will take place celebrating the centenary of the Legion.</p> <p>For details of the event:</p> <p>Contact: devon.chairman@rbl.community for more details.</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>
1 st October	Newton Abbot & Paignton	Centenary Gala Dinner at the Livermead House Hotel, Torquay.
6 th October	Woodbury	Branch Coffee Morning at the White Hart Inn between 10:30 & 12:30
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	Sidford	Sidbury & Sidford Branch Coffee Morning at the Sidford Social Hall. Doors open 10:30.
6 th November	Dawlish	<p>Dawlish 100th Celebrations at Cofton Holiday Park.</p> <p>Contact: Alec Fewings, Branch Chairman on alecfewings@yahoo.com</p>
6 th November	Newton Poppleford	Sidbury & Sidford Branch Coffee Morning at the Newton Poppleford Hall. Doors open 10:30.
21 st November	Devon County	<p>Devon County Centenary Event at the Guildhall, Plymouth. (Afternoon event).</p> <p>Contact: Devon County Chairman on Devon.Chairman@rbl.community</p>
27 th November	Plymouth Crownhill	<p>Centenary Dance</p> <p>Contact: Branch Chairman, Dave Carnell on dave.carnell@yahoo.co.uk</p>

4 th December	Yealm	Charity Dinner and Auction, Yealm Yacht Club, Newton Ferrers. Contact: Branch Secretary, Alan Gorczyca on for.alan@icloud.com
12 th December	Paignton	Christmas Carol Service. 4pm Palace Avenue Gardens, Paignton Contact: Branch Secretary Paignton.secretary@rbl.community

10. Pop Up and Pop In at Tiverton

Why not pop along to Tiverton this week and visit the branch in their Pop Up Shop in Fore Street. They are there until 5pm on Saturday 21st August and would love to see you. They are offering information about the Legion, the branch, seeking new members and recruiting for the Poppy Appeal.

Want to know how they are getting on? Pop along & Pop in.... refreshments guaranteed!



11. Upcoming events in the Spotlight!

REMEMBRANCE/100TH CELEBRATION OF
THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION CONCERT
PERFORMED BY THE SALAMANCA
BAND & BUGLERS OF THE RIFLES

On
Saturday 25th September 2021
At Southernhay Church, Exeter, at 7 pm



FREE ENTRY

The first concert performed by the band since lockdown.

Soloist – Laura Sharley

Concert ending with “Rule Britannia” & “Land of Hope and Glory”

Organised by the Royal British Legion Dartmoor Branch in
partnership with the Keep Military Museum, Dorchester.



Contact: 07710 809 765
dartmoor.chairman@rbl.community

Calling all branch members, supporters and standard bearers, Dartmoor Branch are inviting you to a concert at Southernhay Church on Saturday 25th September 2021 to Celebrate the 100th Year of the Royal British Legion.

Doors open at 7pm, entry is free

Big Shout Out to ALL standard bearers

the concert needs you - “Get On....! PARADE!



Royal British Legion

Centenary Gala Dinner

(Hosted by Paignton and Newton Abbot Branches)

To be held at

Livermead House Hotel Torquay

On Friday 1st October 2021

Entertainment and Grand Raffle

* * * * *

Cost: £35 per person

Dress: Black Tie/Formal

Time: 7p.m. for 7.30p.m.

For more information/menu forms please contact:

NewtonAbbot.Secretary@rbl.community (Mob: 07562604625-
answerphone)

Paignton.Secretary@rbl.community (Mob: 07921813975)

Carriages at midnight

Latest date for registration Friday 10th September



On the 1st October 2021, a Centenary Gala Dinner is being held at the Livermead House Hotel, Torquay to celebrate the 100th Year of the Royal British Legion.

This is an excellent chance to get dressed up and celebrate this milestone together as 'One Legion'.

If you would like to know more email or call the Branch secretaries at Newton abbot and Paignton Branches.

All Welcome!

RBL HQ News

12. Face to Face Private Site / Venue Fundraising in Devon

Branches are advised that the following sites will be used for TRBL Regular Giving & Poppy Lottery Private Site Campaigns during the week commencing Monday 16th August 2021:

- **None**

13. University of Bristol – Military Families Project

We've been contacted by some researchers from the University of Bristol who are working on a project focused on military families. Please see information below and please share this with any of your members you think might be interested.

They are looking for current/retired military personnel and families to share memories and photos of military home life. They want to show its diversity and importance to military life; a perspective that is so far mostly absent from the public conversation and from the historical record.

They are interested in military homes in all shapes and sizes and associated with military service from any era and connected to any branch or rank. They are looking for people who would be willing to help by:

- **Donating images of their lounges/living rooms**
- **Offering to be interviewed about their experience of a military home**
- **Welcome our award-winning photographer into their home to produce beautiful photographs (all Covid precautions will be taken; they will receive digital copies of the photographs)**

If you are interested in taking part, please get in touch by emailing:

- btwh-project@bristol.ac.uk
- For more information, please visit <https://milhome.blogs.bristol.ac.uk>

14. University of Warwick – Calling All Female Veterans

We've been contacted by a female veteran Andreana Glendinning, who is now a doctoral researcher in the Institute of Employment Research at the University of Warwick. She is looking for female veterans to interview as part of her PhD thesis.

If you are a woman who served in the Royal Navy, Army or Royal Air Force you can take part. If you know any women who served and might be interested in taking part, please share this email with them.

The research is focused on your experiences during your transition to civilian life and your work life experiences since leaving the UK Armed Forces. The researcher is interested in finding out how you make decisions regarding your work life, what your experiences of transition from military to civilian life were, your experiences of work in civilian life and how you measure success in the civilian world.

If you would like more information about the research, or you have any questions please contact the researcher at andreana.glendinning@warwick.ac.uk

If you would like to take part please follow the link below and complete the questionnaire:

- <https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/ier/people/phdstudents/andreanaglending/screeningsurvey/>

15. Branch Activity Survey

The Membership Team are looking for your help, they would like you to take a short **ten-minute** survey to tell them about your branch. They are looking for as many branch officers to complete the survey as possible and would really appreciate you being one of them.

The direct link to the online form is [here](#).

The link closes on the 31st August 2021

Kevin

Kevin Jeffery
Devon County Chairman
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Email: devon.chairman@rbl.community