

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY NEWSLETTER



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WELCOME HOME AND THANK YOU

I hope you are all keeping well and safe as the country opens up and starts to get back to some sort of normality.

I wanted to start by welcoming home all of our men and women returning from Afghanistan, and of course we remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice and did not return.

Whether you agree with our swift exit or not, we can all see that some will be worried and suffering by hearing the news. Please be vigilant to those in your branches and wider communities that may be struggling at this time and we will publish some contact details on page 3 for those needing support.

It has been great to see so

many branches getting back to meeting face to face and back out in our local communities. Please feel free to invite me and the County committee along to meet you all.

That being said, please continue to follow the guidelines that are coming out from the Government, HQ and anything locally. Please remember that some of our members may still be feeling vulnerable.

One concern I am hearing from branches recently is around recruitment. If you have any tried and tested methods of recruiting new members and retaining current ones, please feel free to get in touch.

Our recruitment officer, Ian Campbell will be contacting all branches shortly to discuss plans for recruitment and offer any assistance, equally please share your ideas with him. Let's all work together to share the County.



The year is quickly leaving us and the Poppy Appeal will soon be here. Please support your Poppy Appeal Organisers as much as you can as we get back to having collectors out and about.

All the best.

Jackie



48

Number of current branches in Gloucestershire

£495,639

Amount raised locally (so far) for the Poppy Appeal

2,477

Members in Gloucestershire

An update from your MSOs



We hope that you are all well and safe, just a few things for you this month;

Branch Accounts - thank you to all those branches who have submitted their accounts already, we have received 13 to date. To those who haven't submitted their accounts yet, please do let us know if you are having any problems, so we can let Finance know for you. A reminder is that the deadline for submitting your accounts to us is: 30th September 2021. We hope to receive the rest very soon.

Festival of Remembrance & Cenotaph - you will have received the Special Circular about this, please do get in touch if you have any questions.

Bulk Renewal - for those who renew their membership on 1st October 2021 - you will also have received information regarding this. Just a reminder for those of

you who pay by Direct Debit, this will be collected on 9th September, so there is enough time to send out your card before the 1st October 2021 renewal date. Also to advise you that all your members will be showing up on the Payments Outstanding list for your branch on the Portal at the moment, until their payment has gone through. Branch Transfers also cannot be actioned until the member has paid their membership.

Area Manager - this is to advise you that Jenny Wilson left the RBL on 20th August 2021. We have not been advised about her replacement at this time, but will update you once we know more.

MSO Recruitment - we have been advised that recruitment has started for the new MSO for Gloucestershire. Until they have been recruited we will continue to look after you.

Take care & best wishes

Kate and Andy

COUNTY MOTIONS & AWARDS

If you would like to submit a motion to the conference in January or an application for an award, please make sure they are sent to gloucestershire.chairman@rbl.community by the 23rd of October 2021.



FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE

Tickets are released for the evening performance. Tickets for the afternoon will be released on the 21st.

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Please refer to the recent circular or contact the MSOs.

GLOUCESTER CITY SHOWCASE NEW GAZEBO

On Saturday 14th August Gloucester City Branch unveiled its new gazebo, resplendent in RBL livery with volunteers smiling widely on our first formal street outing since covid started. Many thanks to all who attended, some funds were raised for the Poppy Appeal, the best part of the day was seeing other members and the public.

We were hosted by the Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum (SOGM) and are starting to enjoy the benefits of closer collaboration between us, a win-win for both of us.

The next Poppy Appeal fundraising extravaganza will be on 16th October 2021, our annual Poppyfest at the

Walls Club in Barnwood. Details of the event and to buy tickets are available online [here](#)

All profits go to the Poppy Appeal, we must sell 90 tickets to cover costs so your help is very much needed, come along and have a fun night. If you have any questions please contact: Gloucestercity.chairman@rbl.community



PoppyFest 2021
Raising funds for The Poppy Appeal 2021
Tickets £15.00 pp
Min age 15 (must be accompanied by an adult)

Country music with a twist

tickets available from:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk>
search for 'Poppyfest 2021'

Brought to you by the:

Walls Club
Hammond Way, Barnwood
Saturday 16th October 2021
19.30 until close

FOREST GREEN AND NAILSWORTH CELEBRATE

Well, we didn't get the weather but the opening day of this year's Nailsworth Festival brought much fun and laughter in the Mortimer Rooms as the RBL celebrated its 100th anniversary with displays that included the Korean War, the Aden campaign, a display from the Archives including the War Memorial and some excellent historical binders produced by Mike Harvey and a history of the RBL.



their support.

The day began with a wreath laying at the War Memorial by the Deputy Mayor, Mike Kelly, to commemorate those from the Town who had paid the ultimate sacrifice in the Service of our Country.

Our thanks are also extended to the Reverend Caroline Bland for her prayers and Blessing. Ian Maller carried the Standard that proudly carried the new 100 year penant. The exhortation was given and The President, Tony Evans, resplendent in his Town Crier uniform gave the Kohima Epitaph.

Tea, coffee and cakes were available throughout thanks to Trissa Jones and Betty Baker. Des and Carol Cox, along with Ruth Aldridge ran the RBL desk offering membership to visitors and Charles Evans very kindly took photographs throughout the day. Other members including Pat Burgess and Dave Mills came in to offer

SUPPORT INFORMATION

If you are a veteran or a serving member of the HM armed forces please remember that the RBL is here for you and your family.

If you need support or you are struggling with the news coming out of Afghanistan, please call the RBL on **0808 802 8080**

More services can be found here on the **Government website**.

Please reach out if you need support.



MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT

As we exit the pandemic and start looking towards 2022, I am interested in working with those branches that would like help recruiting new members and keeping their branch open.

If you would like to discuss branch recruitment and retention, please feel free to email me gloucestershire.web@rbl.community or call on

07950104450.

It would be great come and visit your branches over the coming weeks and months and discuss how we can your membership.

Ian

A BIT OF A JOKE

Two crows were flying along slowly minding their own business enjoying the scenery, when all of a sudden out of the blue an F/A-18E/F Super Hornet goes screaming past, barely missing the now somersaulting, and wildly flapping crows.

“Oh my God!” exclaims one crow in surprise. “He was sure moving!”

The other crow replies: “I reckon you would be too if you had two backsides and both of them were alight!”

COMMUNITY JOIN TEWKESBURY TO COMMEMORATE VJ DAY

On Sunday, 15th August, Tewkesbury Branch of the The Royal British Legion observed a commemoration for VJ Day in Tewkesbury High Street, outside the Town Hall.

They were joined by Tewkesbury Town Mayor, Councillor Joanne Raywood, the Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor Simon Raywood, The Town Crier and Sergeant, Michael Kean-Price, Standard Bearers of the Royal British Legion and Royal Naval Association, Armed Forces Veterans and The Maritime Service Volunteers. There were also several members of the public in attendance.

The commemoration began with the Town Crier paying tribute to men from the town

who had fought in the Far East during the 2nd World War, and in particular those of the 1st and 10th Battalions of the



Gloucestershire Regiment who fought along the complete length of Burma, adding ten battle honours to the Regimental Colour.

The Town Mayor then gave the Exhortation, which was followed by The Last Post, two minutes silence, with standards dipped in Salute, and Reveille.

The event concluded with the Deputy Town Mayor, whose grandfather had served in the Far East Campaign, giving the Kohima Epitaph.

STANDARD BEARER TRAINING 2021

We hope this message finds you all in good health and staying safe.

We have managed to secure a venue for Standard Bearer training on **Saturday 11th September 12:00 - 17:00 hrs.**

This is to be held at **Gloucestershire Constabulary H.Q. Waterwells Quedgeley Gloucester. GL2 2AN.**

The dates and times are confirmed but subject to change as I am awaiting approval of an all day session to run from 09:00 - 16:00 hrs

Unfortunately there are no catering facilities available so please bring your own food, however we are hoping to sort tea/coffee and soft drinks.

Please could you pass this information on to all Branch Standard Bearer's, including Women's Section and their Deputies.

Also please be advised that all attendees MUST gain permission from their respective chairs and that it is entered into the said branch minutes at the earliest time. This is to ensure you are covered by RBL insurance.

If you have any questions regarding this training please do not hesitate to contact Bob Perkins on 0794415298 or 01452 503440

Please feel free to print or forward the numbers above.

Kindest regards,

Carole Hoban - County Parade Marshal RBL / RBL Women's Section

Bob Perkins - County Standard Bearer/Deputy County Parade Marshal.

Rachel Perkins - County Standard Bearer RBL Women's Section.

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

I really appreciate the amount of stories being sent in by branches this month. Sadly, we can't put them all in, but please keep them coming.

Please also remember that pictures should be accompanied by around 200-230 words to make up an article.

If you need any help with this, I can give you some pointers but I won't be able to write the article itself.

Many thanks in advance.

Ian

POPPY APPEAL UPDATE

We are looking to fill some gaps in Gloucestershire, South Gloucestershire and Bristol.

Current vacancies are in: Temple Quarter, Cabot Circus, the Galleries, Minsterworth, Lydbrook and North Cerney.

If you are interested, please contact

Wendy Holt (Bristol & South Glos)
wholt@britishlegion.org.uk

Sarah Jones (Gloucestershire)
skjones@britishlegion.org.uk



County Committee (2021-2022)

President - Gp Capt (rtd) Anny Reid OBE ARRC (non voting)

Life Vice-President - Norman Low (non voting)

Chairman - Jackie Robertson

Vice-Chairman - John Moloney

Secretariat - Ian Harrison (non voting)

Independent Examiner - Charles Tippet (non voting)

Treasurer - James Brimble

Recruitment & Publicity - Ian Campbell

Poppy Appeal Co-ordinator - Anna Acott

Clubs Liaison Officer - Chris Boskett

Training Officer - Anna Acott

Community Support Reporting Officer - John Moloney

Youth Officer - James Brimble

Parade Marshal - Carole Hoban (non voting)

Standard Bearer - Bob Perkins

Committee Member - Kate Reynolds

Committee Member - Allen Warren

Committee Member - Kay Scase

[Click here for contact details.](#)

4 Gloucestershirems@britishlegion.org.uk

www.counties.britishlegion.co.uk/counties/gloucestershire



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