

# GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY NEWSLETTER



## REMEMBERING THE FALKLANDS

I have had a quiet month this month, but I can see from your emails and on social media that you are all keeping busy and planning great things for the year ahead.

The County Event and Ceremonial Committee have been busy planning the ANZAC day event on 24 April, which we are all looking forward to. It will be wonderful to get together again. Fingers crossed for sunshine.

I was trying to find a way to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee as a County and have decided to create a message book that will be sent to Her Majesty. It will be available for every branch member to write or have written a short message on their Branch page. It will be available by arrangement around the County over the next two

months. Final dates and locations to be arranged. For anyone who is unable to write in it themselves will be able to send a short message to me and I will arrange for it to be added. Please let your members know and we will get the dates and locations out ASAP.

This month marks the 40th anniversary of the Argentine invasion of the Falkland Islands. I know many branches will be marking this historic date and more of you will be commemorating the anniversary of their liberation.

As always if you let us know of your events and meetings, we will endeavour to attend as much as we

can around the County. Stay safe and well and I look forward to seeing you all soon.

I would like to wish our County Youth Standard Bearer, Ed Cowper the best of luck as he travels to the Nationals in Stockport this weekend.

As always, the County Committee and I are here if you need us.

See you all soon.



*Jackie*





# An update from your MSO

I hope that you are all safe and well. I've got a couple of updates this month from Head Office, apologies if you've already heard them!

Firstly, the Board of Trustees and National Chair/Vice-Chair election packs. The deadline for submission of votes from fully compliant branches has been moved to **5pm on 27 April 2022**. Please return your completed, signed ballot paper by either scanning it and emailing it to [support@cesvotes.com](mailto:support@cesvotes.com) or by post to The Independent Scrutineer, Civica Election Services, The Election Centre, 33 Clarendon House, London N8 0NW.

The Membership department and MSOs across the country have been working hard to resolve any issues around receiving election packs. If you have any questions in relation to the election process, please contact [TrusteeElections@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:TrusteeElections@britishlegion.org.uk). Please copy me in.

Secondly an FAQ page has been set up for branches for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. This can be accessed on the Membership Administration Portal for branches using Office 365 or by getting in touch with me directly. There is some useful guidance and advice around arranging community events for the Jubilee.

Finally just a initial reminder that the accounts year for branches ends on **30 June**. Could you ensure that your branch gets a bank statement showing the account balance on 30 June and 01 July, as the accounts team will be chasing up branches that do not have this evidence attached to their returns.

Thank you all for your hard work,

*Seamus*

## FALKLANDS 40

"It was early April 1982, and I was just back at RAF Coningsby in Lincolnshire from a glorious six weeks in Cyprus with my Phantom Squadron, number 29, on our annual air-to-air gunnery deployment.

said my squadron was to be the one to become involved in any operations. But how?..."



We had enjoyed some great flying in glorious weather, firing our 20mm Gatling gun that had an astonishing rate of fire of 6000 rounds per minute. The news and our minds suddenly turned to a far more remote part of the world – the Falkland Islands. As a keen philatelist, at least I knew the location of these islands but it never occurred to me that the Argentinean invasion was to change my life completely.

This is taken from an extract from Air Marshal Sir Ian Macfadyen who's President in Badminton branch.

A few days after the invasion my station commander called me to his office and

You can read more from Sir Ian's time in the South Atlantic [here](#).

## COUNTY CONFERENCE UPDATE

We are delighted to say that the two motions presented and approved at the County Conference in January have now been approved for Annual Conference in London.

Congratulations to the Cheltenham and the Staple Hill & District branches.

You can view the provisional agenda by clicking below.

[CLICK HERE](#)



### ST GEORGE'S DAY SERVICE

All branches and standards are invited to the Gloucester Branch of the Royal Society of St Georges' 42nd St George's Day service at St Barnabas Church, Gloucester. [More info here.](#)



### ANZAC SERVICE

This is being planned as a 'normal' face-to-face event. Invites will be going out shortly to all branches and standard bearers.



### ANNUAL CONFERENCE

We are sure everyone is looking forwards to seeing friends and colleagues back in person, this year in London.



### YEAR END

It's that time of year again. Please make sure that you are starting to think about pulling your finances together.

23

24

13

30

Contact [gloucestershire.chairman@rbl.community](mailto:gloucestershire.chairman@rbl.community) for more info.

Contact [annualconference@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:annualconference@britishlegion.org.uk) for more any assistance.

Contact [sbrennan@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:sbrennan@britishlegion.org.uk) for any assistance.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO CITY OF GLOUCESTER

It was with immense pride that members of the Gloucester City attended a special meeting of the Gloucester City Council on 24 March to receive the Freedom of Entry to the City of Gloucester.

The Branch celebrates its' centenary this year, founded 4 February 1922. This award is an accumulation of the hard work of past members, namely, the late Keith Taylor, as Branch Chairman – Keith and his wife Pat (as Branch Secretary) were in post for some 37 years. The late Norman Partridge, a well-known Councillor and businessman in Gloucester.

The late Don Humphries, former RBL Gloucestershire Hon County Secretary, Parade Marshal and trainer of all things ceremonial, The Rev John Cradock,

now a Church of England Bishop in Gibraltar and Lt Col Tim Merrit who for many years was our County Manager.

Our present members, Branch President Garry Mills and RBL South West Midlands Membership Council Representative, Mark Paveley immediate past Chairman who took over in 2016 serving until 2021. The current Chairman – Mr Rob Howells who took over in Oct 2021 is ex Glosters, a former bandsman and medic. Grp Capt Anny Reid OBE, ARRC (RAF Rtd) a member of Gloucester City Branch and an elected member of the RBL Board of Trustees. Our current secretary,



Judith Stinchcombe, served with the Women's Royal Army Corps, a SSAFA Caseworker for five years. The current Treasurer, Mr Brian Flynn – Ex Royal Corps of Signals, Kay Scase known throughout the RBL for her role as a caseworker across Gloucestershire and beyond and for her role in the Central Committee of the Women's Section of the RBL and Bob Perkins, National and County standard bearer.

An impressive team of people who have served their country and who help provide lifelong support to serving our beneficiaries.

## ELECTIONS

The date for votes to be cast is now **27 April** for the election of the National Chairman, National Vice-Chairman and our Trustees.

It is important that each branch gets involved as those elected will be working hard keep our charity functioning for our members, volunteers and our beneficiaries.

Please return your completed, signed ballot paper by either scanning it and emailing it to [support@cesvotes.com](mailto:support@cesvotes.com) or by post to The Independent Scrutineer, Civica Election Services, The Election Centre, 33 Clarendon House, London N8 0NW.

## JOIN US FOR ANZAC DAY

The County is delighted that we can be back to seeing you in person at our ANZAC Day service this year.

For those that would like to join us this, please meet us at the cemetery in Leighterton at 14:45 on 24 April ready for a 15:00 start.

Parking will be available at Leighterton Primary School and gates will be open from 14:00.

Sadly we are unable to parade from the school to the cemetery this year as we have been unable to secure a third party to accept liability and therefore we would be without insurance for the parade element. That being said, we are determined to honour the men buried in the cemetery they way they should be.

The County will be providing refreshments following the service in the school.



Please do not attend if you are feeling unwell in order to protect others. Masks and sanitiser will be on hand for those that require them.

If you have any questions, please contact Jackie

on [gloucestershire.chairman@rbl.community](mailto:gloucestershire.chairman@rbl.community) or 07527151360.

We hope to see you there.

# POETS CORNER

ANNABELLE By Tony McNally

How fortunate a man I am to smell  
The newborn scent of my baby Annabelle  
She gives me unconditional love  
Her proof life must go on  
Heaven bound white dove  
I pray thanks dear Lord I survived my war  
In 1982 some never reached the shore  
She has stopped me from taking the easy way out  
That sweet smell of innocence  
There is no doubt  
How fortunate a man I am to tell

This is my daughter, my Annabelle.

If you have any short poems that you would like to share, please email [gloucestershire.web@rbl.community](mailto:gloucestershire.web@rbl.community)

## Words meaning... 'Confuse'

P	T	R	A	E	F	U	E	U	B	R	A	F	R
A	V	S	Z	C	D	H	R	T	U	L	U	R	C
D	E	A	T	U	B	E	L	F	F	A	B	U	B
A	D	R	U	D	I	R	F	A	Z	E	E	S	E
S	P	E	R	P	L	E	X	U	X	E	T	T	F
F	U	I	E	L	T	T	A	R	T	E	B	R	L
M	L	N	S	P	B	Z	A	B	A	S	H	A	U
U	T	I	H	B	N	P	P	F	E	E	S	T	S
D	E	P	V	I	T	E	U	E	F	L	U	E	T
D	S	M	U	E	N	U	F	Z	R	E	D	Z	E
L	U	U	G	L	D	G	R	L	Z	T	E	D	R
E	M	T	E	I	X	E	E	E	P	L	U	P	A
B	E	S	H	N	Z	R	B	U	U	E	E	R	A
V	B	R	B	E	C	L	U	T	T	E	R	E	B

- PUZZLE
- BEDEVIL
- RATTLE
- FLUSTER
- UNHINGE
- FAZE
- ADDLE
- PERTURB
- PERPLEX
- STUMP
- DAZE
- MUDDLE
- ABASH
- FRUSTRATE
- BAFFLE
- CLUTTER

Can you find one that is missing from the list?

Message us with the answer.

# THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE



To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, we are producing a book for messages from branches and supporters.

The book aims to allow all branches and supporters to contribute and the county committee will, where possible, get this book to one of your meetings for people to sign and leave a message.

The book will then be sent off to Buckingham Palace over the Jubilee period.

Clearly, this is going to rely on your branch communicating with us and helping to work out the logistics. Any branches that don't get in touch or that don't want to be involved will have a simple message put in the book on behalf of their members by the County Chairman.

If your branch does want to get involved, please contact us and we will get you in the diary.

Please email [gloucestershire.web@rbl.community](mailto:gloucestershire.web@rbl.community) or call 07950104450.

Thank you.



# YOUTH STANDARD

We want to wish our County Youth Standard Bearer, Ed Cowper all the best with the National Youth Standard Bearer's Competition.

The competition is set to take place in Stockport on 9-10 April.

Ed is the third County Youth Standard Bearer to have been trained and put through to nationals! Originally trained by Brian Cash, Standard Bearer at the Woodmancote branch and since by Rachel Perkins, National Standard Bearer for the Women's Section.

For those that don't know Ed, he is part of the Air Training Corps and based in Woodmancote.

'Best of luck Ed, we know you'll do us proud!'

## A BIT OF A JOKE

During training exercises, the Lieutenant who was driving down a muddy back road encountered another car stuck in the mud with a red-faced Colonel at the wheel.

"Your car stuck, sir?" asked the Lieutenant as he pulled alongside.

"Nope," replied the colonel, coming over and handing him the keys. "Yours is."

## GUESS THE IMAGE

Guess the image will reveal a puzzle piece a month that will help identify an object.

For 2022, we are asking you to name 'Her Majesty's Ship...'

A prize will go to the individual that guesses correctly.

Correct answers to [gloucestershire.web@rbl.community](mailto:gloucestershire.web@rbl.community) or 07950104450.

All correct entries will go into a hat in December.



## MEMBERSHIP TOWN HALL

Join the RBL on 28 April 2022 at 18:00 to hear all the latest Legion updates. The event is being held virtually on Microsoft Teams - you do not need to have Teams installed on your device.

If you would like to attend and find out what is happening nationally, please register [here](#).

The Town hall will cover the following topics:

- One legion Strategy
- Introducing new Trustee, Patsy Wilkinson
- Diversity & Inclusion in action
- What is the purpose of RBL membership?

## County Committee (2022-2023)

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

**Life Vice-President** - Norman Low (non voting)

**Chairman** - Jackie Robertson

**Vice-Chairman** - John Moloney

**Independent Examiner** - VACANT (non voting)

**Treasurer** - James Brimble

**Recruitment & Publicity** - Ian Campbell

**Poppy Appeal Co-ordinator** - Jackie Robertson

**Clubs Liaison Officer** - Chris Boskett

**Training Officer** - Kate Reynolds

**Community Support Reporting Officer** - John Moloney

**Youth Officer** - James Brimble

**Parade Marshal** - Carole Hoban (non voting)

**County Standard Bearer** - Bob Perkins

**Committee Member** - Allen Warren

**Committee Member** - Kay Scase

**Committee Member** - Chris Howell (Co-opted)

**Committee Member** - Stan Rudge (Co-opted)

[Click here for contact details.](#)