

Royal British Legion Oxfordshire

December 2025



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(This Newsletter is produced quarterly Apr, Aug, Dec annually)

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A Message from the Lord Lieutenant for Oxfordshire - Mrs Marjorie Glasgow BEM



Since 2021, it has been my privilege to represent first, The Late Queen, and now, His Majesty The King as Lord-Lieutenant of Oxfordshire. Along with our 40 Deputy Lieutenants serving throughout the county, we work to strengthen communities connecting with over 22,000 people each year. The Lieutenancy sees a common thread amongst the individuals and groups we meet in Oxfordshire: commitment, creativity, and willingness to use their time and talent to make a positive difference for others. The Oxfordshire Royal British Legion is an exemplar of these qualities.

As Lord-Lieutenant, I was grateful to participate in the last Poppy Presentation at Blenheim Palace which was an extraordinary illustration of the unifying, engaging events which Oxfordshire's RBL produces so beautifully. My trusted horse, Cicero, and I were delighted to serve the RBL that day. Equally, each time we meet with RBL members – our Lieutenancy was honoured to participate in 31 Remembrance Day celebrations across Oxfordshire this year – we are heartened by the loyalty, generosity, and teamwork of the RBL throughout Oxfordshire.

On Remembrance Day 2025 I was privileged to take part in the Charlbury and the Carterton celebrations, both of which were beautifully organised and remarkably well supported. The words of the Padre from RAF Brize Norton at the service of Remembrance in Carterton left a marked impression on me. Paraphrased, he said though we are not all called to serve in the military and fight for our country, we are all called to create and support communities and a country worth fighting for.

As the Lieutenancy and the Royal British Legion look forward to serving Oxfordshire together, I hope we can knit the Padre's words into more of our connections with others. We are so fortunate to meet and know such a broad group of people; these connections have created a high level of trust in our communities. We all share common values and hopes: peace, democracy, individual freedom and unity of spirit. May we maintain the energy and enthusiasm to keep those hopes alive and help them flourish.

Marjorie Neasham Glasgow BEM

HM Lord-Lieutenant of Oxfordshire

November, 2025



1 - Lord-Lieutenant Glasgow on Cicero with the County Chair Fiona Lovesey at the Poppy Appeal Presentation

Message from the Interim County Chair - Fiona Lovesey



I am delighted to announce that the County has achieved a 100% Annual Finance Return—an accomplishment not seen in several years. This significant milestone is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our Branch Treasurers, Branch Officials, and the County Committee Members who have served as Branch Liaison Officers. Special thanks go to County Treasurer Andrew Bowes for his tireless efforts throughout this period.

As Branches prepare for or hold their Annual General Meetings (AGMs), we recognize this is a busy time, often involving changes in Branch Officers or Standard Bearers. Our next key milestone is the submission of the MS series of documents (MS1 for full Branches, MS1CSB for County Supported Branches, and MS1b for all Standard Bearers). Please ensure these forms are completed and returned to County before 30 December 2025, so we can maintain compliance and update the CARE system accordingly. County Branch Liaison Officers will continue to offer support to any Branches needing assistance.

The Branch Liaison Officer initiative has been a tremendous success, fostering greater inclusivity and communication across the County. We are proud that other counties are looking to the Oxfordshire model as an example for improving their own County-Branch relationships.

Following the AGMs, most Branches will enter a quieter period over Christmas, while County-level preparations ramp up for the County Conference on 31 January 2026 at Carterton Community Centre. We encourage all Branches to nominate delegates and attend this important event. Our thanks go to the County Conference Sub Committee, led by County Vice Chair Tjark Andrews, and Carterton stalwarts Brian and Yona Barrett, for their dedication in organizing the conference. This year's guest speakers include Invictus athlete Charlie Pye and Pauline Swann, RBL Regional Clubs Relationship Manager, both of whom promise to deliver inspiring talks.

In this edition, we also celebrate the recent Oxfordshire County Standard Bearer Competition, won by Tjark Andrews. Congratulations to all Standard Bearers who participated—you embody the spirit of remembrance and community. We look forward to even greater participation in 2026.

We have also included in this edition a spotlight on some organisations and RBL Partnerships that can help with mental health and wellbeing, rehabilitation and the fantastic opportunity for Branches to support Invictus Games athletes.

Finally, heartfelt thanks to all who took part in Acts of Remembrance, including Kingham's "Poppies to Paddington" and our Ceremonial Team's involvement in the Festival of Remembrance and the National Act of Remembrance at the Cenotaph. Your commitment makes these occasions truly meaningful.

May I be the first to wish all County Branch Members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Fiona Lovesey

Oxfordshire County Committee

County Committee Members

County President

Mrs Ann Mid-Winter Oxfordshire.President@RBL.Community

County Chair

Vacant - Interim Chair -Mrs Fiona Lovesey Oxfordshire.Chair@RBL.Community

County Vice Chair

Interim Vice Chair - Mr Tjark Andrews Oxfordshire.ViceChair@RBL.Community

County Secretary

Mr Rob Lovesey Oxfordshire.Secretary@RBL.Community

County Treasurer

Mr Andrew Bowes Oxfordshire.Treasurer@RBL.Community

County Parade Marshal

Mr Peter Clarke Oxfordshire.ParadeMarshal@RBL.Community

County Training Officer

Mr Derek Bradshaw Oxfordshire.CTO@RBL.Community

County Recruitment Officer

Mr Brian Leach Oxfordshire.Recruitment@RBL.Community

County Community Support Co-ordinator

Vacant

Oxfordshire Club Liaison Officer

Vacant

County Standard Bearer

Mr Tjark Andrews Oxfordshire.StdBearer@RBL.Community

County Branch Liaison Officers

- **County Chair – Fiona Lovesey (Oxfordshire.Chair@RBL.Community):** Benson and District, Watlington, Thame and Stanton Harcourt
- **County Treasurer – Andrew Bowes (Oxfordshire.Treasurer@RBL.Community):** Bix, Shiplake, Nettlebed, Ramsden, Headington and Standlake & Northmoor
- **County Recruitment Officer - Brian Leach (Oxfordshire.CRO@RBL.Community):** Bicester, Kidlington, Kirtlington, Heyford and Deddington
- **County Training Officer - Derek Bradshaw (Oxfordshire.CTO@RBL.Community):** Littlemore, Yarnton, Eynsham, Cassington and Islip
- **County Parade Marshal – Pete Clarke (Oxfordshire.ParadeMarshal@RBL.Community):** Chipping Norton, Bloxham, Kingham and Banbury
- **County Standard Bearer – Tjark Andrews (Oxfordshire.StdBearer@RBL.Community):** Burford, Bampton, Charlbury, North Leigh and Carterton
- **County Secretary – Rob Lovesey (Oxfordshire.Secretary@RBL.Community):** Dorchester, Henley, Peppard, Wheatley and Chinnor



Legion Staff

Membership Engagement Manager (MEM)

Mr Chris Jones Central.MEM@RBL.Community

Membership Engagement Officer (MEO)

Ms Lebo Nyoni Oxfordshire.MEO@RBL.Community

Poppy Appeal Manager (Oxfordshire)

Mr Yanto Evans YEvans@britishlegion.org.uk

Calling Notice for County Chair Position



Calling Notice and Election of County Chair

All Branches and CSBs would have by now received the Calling Notice from the Membership Engagement Officer (MEO) Lebo Nyoni. What does this mean? A "RBL Calling Notice" typically refers to a notification from The Royal British Legion (RBL) related to a Branch or County, in this case for the election of a County Chair. Branches are required to discuss the Calling Notice at the earliest opportunity at their respective Branch meeting;

calling on any member to be nominated by a Branch for consideration for the role. A branch are to sponsor the nomination to the MEO with all nominations put to compliant Branches for a vote on appointment. Where there is only one nomination then that candidate will be considered in isolation. You are there requested to place before your membership the Calling Notice and seek any nominations.

County Chair Terms of Reference

To aid anyone considering this worth while role of managing a National Charity in your local County, detailed below is the extracted Terms of Reference (TORs) from the Membership Handbook.

County Chair

The County Chair is the most senior elected Officer of the County Committee and is elected by postal ballot to chair the County Committee for a tenure of three years.

The County Chair is expected to show strong leadership, management, and diplomatic skills by ensuring that a close bond and liaison is maintained between the branch membership and County Committee along with building and maintaining a good working relationship with RBL staff.

They should abide by decisions made by the Membership Council and Board of Trustees but also be prepared to voice the views and concerns of the Membership within their County through the Membership Council Representative.

The County Chair plays a key role in the public relations of the RBL and, as such they should be capable of representing the RBL at all levels within the County.

The County Chair is responsible for directing all County activities, and the effective management and running of the County.

1. The County Chair must ensure that all County Committee members and branches are aware of, and adhere to the RBL vision, values and code of behaviour for working together, and the effective management and running of the County.
2. The County Chair should possess good basic I.T. skills and be able to access the MAP in Microsoft Office 365 (O365), use email and be familiar with social media platforms that the RBL, County and branches may use.
3. The County Chair must be conversant and compliant with the current Royal Charter, the Membership Handbook and policies and procedures, which are all located in the MAP on Microsoft Office 365 (O365).
4. Ensure that all positions on County Committee are filled and Role Descriptions and Terms of Reference (TORs) are issued. Any training requirement is to be discussed and arranged through the County Training Officer and/or the MEO.

5. Ensure that all members of the County Committee are aware of their responsibilities as outlined within the current Royal Charter, the Membership Handbook and all other relevant policies and procedures.
6. Ensure that those who hold specialist appointments that are subject to the RBL's screening programme detailed within the RBL's Safeguarding Policy are aware of the tasks that must be undertaken prior to taking up their duties.
7. The County Chair must build and maintain a strong relationship with the MEO to ensure effective administration of the County.
8. With the assistance of the County Committee, develop and implement the County three-year plan.
9. Work closely with the County Treasurer ensuring that the budget is in place to implement all planned activities. MH — MARCH 2025 97
10. Brief Committee members on on-going issues at County and National level and ensure that branches are kept informed where appropriate.
11. Be responsible for chairing the Annual Meeting of the County Conference, where they must exercise their authority and leadership on Conference matters. The County Chair must be strict in their interpretation of the Royal Charter and County byelaws whilst taking into account the views of the delegates.
12. In order to establish good communication links with the membership, visit all formations within the County, for example as a guest speaker, to settle disputes or as a social visit to maintain contact.
13. Work closely with the MEO and the Membership Council representative, giving them their full support, whilst ensuring their actions have the support of the County Committee.
14. Support or reject applications for RBL Awards for Meritorious Service.
15. Consult with the County President concerning all recommendations to the National President for National Honours.
16. Make recommendations for RBL Club licence issue or withdrawal or issue of a conditional licence following consultation with the Regional Clubs Relationship Manager and County Committee.
17. With the support of the County Committee recommend additions to byelaws for the governance of the County in accordance with the terms of the current Royal Charter and Membership Handbook
18. Appoint and sit on any necessary sub-Committees.

19. Encourage the membership to be active in the Poppy Appeal, assist with benevolent work and develop an engaged Membership.

20. The county chair is responsible for implementing recommendations arising from investigations and audits conducted by the Audit, Compliance and Investigations team



101st Oxfordshire County Conference

Just a reminder that the 101st Oxfordshire County Conference will be held on Saturday 31 Jan 26 in the Carterton Community Centre. You are requested if you are attending to be seated for 1015hrs when the County Standards will be paraded. The Guests this year include the Lord-Lieutenant of Oxfordshire or their representative, guest speakers Charlie Dye (a Great Britain Invictus Games Athlete) and Pauline Swann the Regional Representative for RBL Clubs.

We hope to see you there.

County Committee Vacancies



County Committee Vacancies County Committee

There are currently a number of vacancies on the Committee which are open to all Branch members. As there have been no nominations received to date, the deadline is open until 15 December 2025, to be submitted direct to the County Secretary by email please.

The roles are:

- **County Community Support Coordinator** - the coordinator role is to support the county committee and branches to promote branch community activities including BCS, encourage participation, and support the sharing of knowledge around RBL's services.
- **County Training Officer** - The role would suit someone who has experience in training delivery or has a genuine interest in learning and development and is prepared to deliver a local training schedule and collate registration for nationally-led training courses.
- **County RBL Club Liaison Officer** - the role is responsible for fostering strong relationships between the Royal British Legion (RBL) and its affiliated clubs in Oxfordshire.

If these are areas which you feel you might like to contribute to the running of the County, please get in touch with the County Secretary asap to discuss further. Training and support will be provided for all posts where necessary.

Committee Members Needed



MS1, MS1 CSB and MS1b Form Deadline

Branch Compliance under the terms of the Royal Charter and the Membership Handbook requires all Branches including County Supported Branches (CSBs) to complete and submit the requisite MS Form. The completion of the MS Forms should form part of your Branch Annual General Meeting and should be completed between 01 Oct and 30 Dec annually. Additionally each Branch including CSBs are required to complete a MS1B Branch Standard Bearer Disclaimer. The completed forms are to be submitted by the 31 Dec 25 to the Oxfordshire MEO - email to ***Oxfordshire.MEO@RBL.Community***.

The **MS1 Branch Information Form**, which has undergone several administrative changes and is now available in MAP. The main changes are:

- **Signatures:** The requirement for all branch committee members to sign the form has been removed. Signatures are now only needed for key roles (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and Branch Parade Marshal).
- **Committee Numbers:** The recommended minimum number of committee members is now five (previously three), with a recommended maximum of no more than eleven (absolute maximum 15).
- **Email Usage:** As of January 1, 2025, RBL branches are expected to use official ***rbl.community*** email accounts for all correspondence, and these details must be included on the MS1 form.
- **Deadline:** The deadline for the submission of the completed MS1 form is December 31st each year to maintain compliance and voting rights.
- **Self-Declaration:** ***All role holders*** are required to read and sign an MS1 Self-Declaration document, which includes a consent for a potential DBS check.

M51 FOR COUNTY-SUPPORTED BRANCHES
 FOR THE YEAR COMMENCING 1st OCTOBER 2018

All members of this form must be members of the RBL and all other details must be entered in the appropriate boxes. All members must be aged 18 or over. All members must be living in the United Kingdom. All members must be living in the United Kingdom. All members must be living in the United Kingdom.

SECTION 1 - MEMBER INFORMATION

MEMBER NAME	MEMBER NO.	SEX
MEMBER ADDRESS		
MEMBER PHONE		
MEMBER EMAIL		

SECTION 2 - MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

MEMBER STATUS	MEMBER TYPE	MEMBER NO.
MEMBER CONTACT		

SECTION 3 - DECLARATION OF MEMBERSHIP

I hereby declare that I am a member of the RBL and I am entitled to the benefits of membership. I am not a member of any other RBL branch. I am not a member of any other RBL branch. I am not a member of any other RBL branch.

Spotlight on Membership Services

The Royal British Legion (RBL) Membership Services team manages membership queries, applications, renewals, and member benefits. Membership is open to everyone, whether or not they have an Armed Forces connection.

Key Services and Contact Information

You can manage most membership services through the online Membership Self-Service Portal. For direct assistance, the Membership Services team can be reached via:

- Telephone (UK free): **0800 307 7773** (lines open Monday to Sunday, 8am to 8pm, excluding Christmas Day and Boxing Day)
- Telephone (Overseas): **+44 (0)207 191 1091** (charges apply)
- Email: **membershipservices@britishlegion.org.uk**
- Online Portal: **<https://selfservice.britishlegion.org.uk/security/login>**

Core Membership Services

Joining and Renewing: The team handles new membership applications (online, by phone, or paper form) and annual renewals. Direct Debit is the fastest way to renew. The annual fee is currently £22 (plus potential local branch fees).

Updating Details: Members can use the Self-Service Portal to update their personal information (address, email, phone number) and contact preferences.

Membership Cards: They manage the dispatch of new and replacement membership cards.

Branch Information: Services include information on local branches, assistance with joining different branches, and details about local RBL clubs (which have separate fees).

Benefits and Offers: The team can provide information on member benefits, such as the *Legion* magazine, e-newsletters, discounts at the Poppy Shop, and priority access to tickets for the Festival of Remembrance.

Gift Aid: Members can add or remove a Gift Aid declaration via the portal or by contacting the team, which increases the value of their contribution at no extra cost.

Complaints: The Membership Services team is the first point of contact for membership-related complaints.

For welfare support, veterans and their families should use the RBL's separate helpline at 0808 802 8080.

Nominations for National Membership Awards

Annual nominations for the National Membership Awards are now open! These awards celebrate and recognise the tireless work of our members and formations. The 2026 nomination form can be found on MAP where there is a list of all awards and the nomination process. **Note:** nominations for these awards are subject to a formal nomination process which must be supported by the County Chair. Nominees must have already been in receipt of a Branch and/or County Certificate of Appreciation, and must demonstrate that the individual has done something exceptional in furthering the values of the Royal British Legion.

The deadline for all awards to be submitted to Membership Services via the County Chair is Friday 13 Feb 26 (please do not send direct as they will not be accepted without the endorsement of the County Chair and the County Awards Committee). Additionally,

Counties and Branches can submit nomination for Gold Badges, Life Membership Badges, National Certificate or the National Chairs Award via a separate process and form which can be found in MAP. These awards also need to be staffed through the County Chair and County Awards Committee to endorse the nomination.

Branch and County Certificates of Appreciation

Branch Award - Every Branch is able to award a Branch Certificate to an individual who in their opinion has done something exceptional for the Branch. The issuing of such an award should be included in the Branch meeting minutes, These awards can be presented at any time.

County Award - Once a member has a Branch they may then be nominated for a County Certificate of Appreciation. This will be considered by the County Awards Committee and if awarded, minuted as such and presented at the County Annual Conference.



Gift Aid

Gift Aid Members are encouraged to Gift Aid their membership fee when they join.

Gift Aid Members can add or remove a Gift Aid declaration at any time by contacting the **Membership Services** team via **email to membershipservices@britishlegion.org.uk or by logging into the Membership Self-Service Portal.**

Note: any Gift Aid donations cannot be paid into branch funds as branches cannot claim Gift Aid directly. The RBL will claim Gift Aid centrally and only on donations and gifts received directly to its accounts.

Gift Aid is a UK government scheme that allows charities to reclaim 25% of the basic rate of tax on eligible donations, meaning a £10 donation becomes £12.50. To participate, UK taxpayers must complete a Gift Aid Declaration Form or the charity, which lets them reclaim the tax paid on the donation at no extra cost to you. This can apply to most donations, including those from your wages, private pensions, or when selling shares for less than their market value, as long as you have paid enough tax in that year to cover the claim.

How it works

- **Charity reclaims tax:** For every £1 you donate, the charity can claim an extra 25p from the government.
- **Tax relief:** The donation is treated as if it were made after tax was deducted, and the charity reclaims that basic rate tax.
- **No extra cost to you:** By making a Gift Aid declaration, you allow the charity to receive the extra 25% without any additional cost to you.
- **You must be a taxpayer:** To be eligible, you must have paid enough Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax in the same tax year to cover the claim.

giftaid

Ceremonial Update Pete Clarke

County Standard Bearer Competition: A New Annual Tradition

We are delighted to share highlights from the recent County Standard Bearer Competition and extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated and supported this memorable event. Your enthusiasm and dedication made it a resounding success.

Looking ahead, we are excited to announce that the County Standard Bearer Competition will now be held annually. This event offers a unique opportunity for Standard Bearers from across Oxfordshire to showcase their skills and commitment to this important role.

To further support our Standard Bearers, we plan to increase the number of training sessions throughout the coming year. These sessions are a fantastic way to meet fellow Standard Bearers, enhance your skills, and take part in ceremonial events both within the County and beyond. Training dates will be announced in January 2026, with notifications sent to all Branches.

In another exciting development, Oxfordshire will host the Regional Standard Bearer Competition in 2026—a significant milestone for our County. We are proud to announce that Tjark Andrews, winner of this year's County Standard Bearer Competition, will represent Oxfordshire at this prestigious event.

We encourage all Standard Bearers to attend the upcoming training sessions and hope to see even more participants in next year's County Standard Bearer Competition. Let's

continue to build on this tradition and celebrate the dedication and excellence of our Standard Bearers.

Pete



Branch Recruitment Update

As the year ends, Branches have worked hard to maintain and grow membership. Recruitment leaflets are available from the County Recruitment Officer, Brian Leach (***Oxfordshire.CRO@RBL.Community***).

Congratulations to Littlemore, Kingham, Banbury, and all smaller and CSB Branches for notable membership increases. The County Recruitment Officer is available to support further recruitment efforts.

Members can join up to four Branches, helping boost numbers and maintain viability—especially for CSBs. With only five Officers now required in Office for a Branch, some CSBs may return to full Branch status.

County	County Code	Branch	Branch Code	2025	2024	
Oxfordshire	CN013	Bampton RBL	BR0728	90	74	16
		Barnwell & District RBL	BR0729	15	34	39
		Benson & District RBL	BR0730	39	36	3
		Bicester and District RBL	BR0731	69	62	7
		Bix RBL	BR0732	30	30	0
		Bloxham & Dist RBL CSB	BR0734	25	25	0
		Burford & Dist RBL CSB	BR0736	20	16	4
		Carterton & District RBL	BR0737	92	77	15
		Cassington RBL CSB	BR0738	12	9	3
		Charlbury RBL	BR0741	31	29	2
		Chinnor & Dist RBL	BR0743	63	56	7
		Chipping Norton RBL	BR0744	67	52	15
		Deddington RBL CSB	BR0746	44	42	2
		Dorchester & Dist Branch RBL	BR0747	31	25	6
		Eynsham RBL CSB	BR0749	25	20	5
		Headington RBL CSB	BR0752	14	8	6
		Henley on Thames RBL	BR0753	104	95	9
		Heyford RBL CSB	BR0754	16	13	3
		Islip and Otmoor RBL	BR0755	19	18	1
		Kidlington & Dist RBL CSB	BR0756	39	33	6
		Kingham RBL	BR0758	73	31	42
		Kirtlington RBL	BR0759	20	18	2
		Littlemore RBL	BR0760	187	100	87
		Nettlebed RBL	BR0763	27	25	2
		North Leigh RBL CSB	BR0764	14	12	2
		Peppard & Dist Branch RBL CSB	BR0766	12	9	3
		Ramsden RBL	BR0767	6	6	0
		Shiplake & Dunsden RBL	BR0768	33	31	2
		Standlake & N Moor RBL CSB	BR0771	11	11	0
		Stanton Harcourt RBL CSB	BR0772	14	14	0
		Thame RBL	BR0773	33	25	8
		Watlington RBL	BR0775	74	72	2
		Wheatley & District RBL	BR0776	36	33	3
		Yarnton RBL CSB	BR0780	254	228	26

The Royal Charter

The Royal Charter is the foundational governance document for The Royal British Legion (RBL), which incorporates it as a single legal entity, rather than as a company under the Companies Act. It is recognised by the government and the Charity Commission and is enforceable in law

Key Details

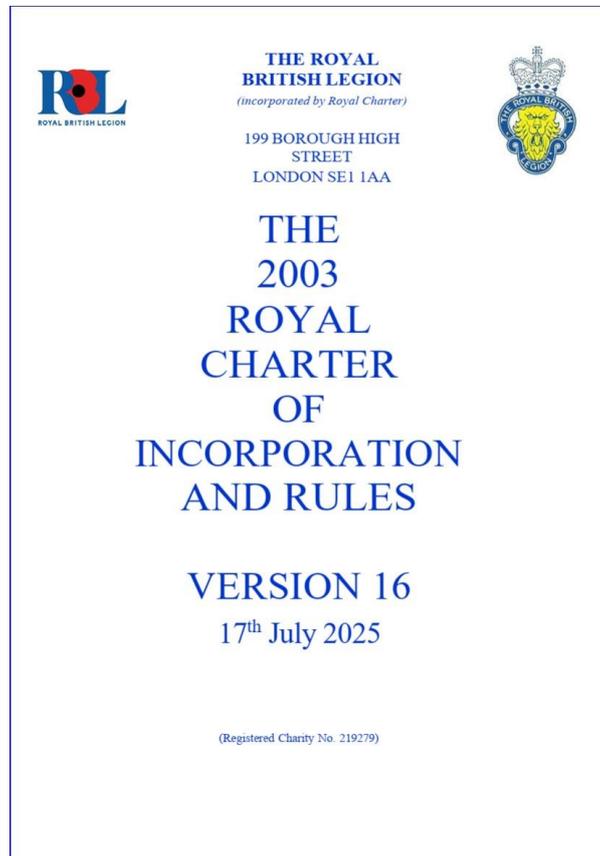
- **Purpose:** The Charter sets out the RBL's objectives and powers, and details how the organisation is structured, managed, and run.
- **First Granting:** The original Charter was granted to the "British Legion" in 1925 by King George V.
- **Evolution:** The initial Charter has been updated through various Supplemental Charters to adapt to the evolving needs of the ex-Service community and the Legion's structure. Major amendments occurred in 1979, 1993, 2003, and by Order in Council in 2019. The most recent version 17 dated 17 Jul 2025.
- **Amendment Process:** Motions for changes to the Charter can be proposed by RBL members and discussed at the Annual Conference. Any amendments must be approved by the King in Council.
- **Legal Status:** A Royal Charter is a formal grant from the monarch under royal prerogative, incorporating a body for public benefit. It is a mark of distinction, typically reserved for pre-eminent, stable, and permanent professional bodies, learned societies, or charities.

The RBL's Charitable Objects

The Royal Charter outlines the charitable objectives of the Royal British Legion. These include providing relief for serving and ex-Service personnel and their dependants,

promoting resettlement and rehabilitation programs, and commemorating those who have died while serving in the Armed Forces. The complete text of the Royal Charter is available at:

<https://counties.britishlegion.org.uk/counties/oxfordshire/royal-charter-and-membership-handbook/>



Training - "Discover" Portal



The Royal British Legion (RBL) is incorporated by a Royal Charter, which serves as its governing document, outlining its objectives, powers, structure, management, and rules. It

functions similarly to a constitution and is a legally binding document recognised by the Charity Commission and the government.

Key aspects of the RBL Royal Charter

- **Incorporation:** The Charter incorporates the RBL, making it a single legal entity rather than an association of individuals under the Companies Act.
- **History:**
 1. The first Charter was granted to the British Legion in 1925 by King George V.
 2. The organisation received "royal status" and became "The Royal British Legion" in 1971.
 3. The original Charter has been updated over the years by various Supplemental Charters to adapt to the changing needs of the ex-Service community.
 4. The most recent version of the Charter (version 17) is dated 17 Jul 25

Purpose and Objects:

The Charter sets out the RBL's charitable objects, which broadly include relieving the need, suffering, and distress of beneficiaries and their dependants, promoting education and resettlement, and commemorating those who have died in service.

Governance:

The Charter details how the organisation is to be run, including the roles and responsibilities of the Board of Trustees, the Annual Conference, and the membership.

Amendments:

Motions for amendments to the Charter can be put forward by members at the Annual Conference and must be subsequently ratified by the Board of Trustees. Any changes only take effect if approved by the King in Council.

You can view the full Royal Charter and Rules on the official

All Branch Officers and Committee members should attend training sessions commensurate to their role in the Branch. A useful guide to Branch (and County) Roles including the relevant Terms of Reference can be found at the embedded document.

The County Training Officer (CTO) is Derek Bradshaw and can be contacted Oxfordshire.CTO@RBL.Community

TRAINING NEWS

There is now a great selection of development and management training which members may find beneficial, especially if you are new to an Officer or Committee post in your branch.

All these are now available on the Discover Training Portal which everyone can register on and then book those courses you would like to do. Some are on-line only whilst others might need you to attend face-to-face. The following are currently available:

- Branch Management (***mandatory for all Branch Officers***)
- County Management (***mandatory for all County Officers***)
- County Training Officer
- County Recruiting Officer
- Branch Recruiting Advisor
- Branch Treasurer (***mandatory for all Branch Treasurers***)
- LOMAS (recommended for all new users of LOMAS)
- Independent Examiner (mandatory for all IE prior to registration with the County)
- Secretaries Course (Branch and County) (***new***)
- Branch Community Support Branch Community Support Coordinator (***mandatory for all BCS Coordinators***)
- Branch Community Support (BCS) - New Coordinator (***mandatory for all new Coordinators***)
- Branch Community Support Refresher (***to be completed every 2 years by BCS Staff***)
- Informal Resolution
- Outlook Navigation
- Safeguarding Adults (***mandatory for all BCS Staff***)
- Data Protection (***mandatory for all Branch and County Officers***)

For further details including Course Prospectus, guidance on how to register and use Discover, please contact Derek Bradshaw Oxfordshire.CTO@RBL.Community

Keeping in Contact - RBL Community E-Mail Addresses



All County and Branch officers whose role requires access to sensitive information are required to use an RBL-issued email when communicating on behalf of the charity, and to use provided tools for sharing and storing this information.

This is to keep our charity, our members and our beneficiaries safe from cyber crime and identity theft, and to comply with the law.

All qualifying County and Branch officers without access to an RBL.Community email account can now register for an account.

Registering for your account is easy. All you need to do is contact the Membership Engagement Officer (MEO) Oxfordshire.MEO@rbl.community who will get you started.

Training support is available from the County Training Officer (CTO) once your account is activated, in addition to using it for communicating on behalf of RBL. You will be able to receive direct RBL communications, access important county and/or branch information, and interact with other branch and county officials around the UK and overseas via the RBL-exclusive social network, Viva Engage.

The following are eligible for accounts at Branch level:

- Chair (**mandatory**)
- Vice Chair
- Secretary (**mandatory**)
- Treasurer (**mandatory**)

- Standard Bearer Branch
- Community Coordinator (BCC)
- Events Mem Sec (subject to review)

This applies also the County Supported Branches and the requirement for the Point of Contacts for have an official email address:

- Point of Contact 1 **(mandatory)**
- Point of Contact 2 **(mandatory)**

To obtain your Branch RBL.Community accounts please email Lebo our Oxfordshire Membership Engagement Officer at

Oxfordshire.MEO@rbl.community

Sponsoring Invictus Games Competitors



It is estimated that each UK competitor in the 2027 Invictus Games will cost £26,500 which includes items such as kit and equipment, accommodation and food, travel costs, training events (some of which will take place at the Battleback Centre), coaches and volunteers.

The RBL Women's Section has already agreed to sponsor the cost of accommodation to the tune of £300,000 and all Counties and Branches are now being asked to consider using any "spare" branch funds which they might have to assist with the sponsorship of competitors in the 2027 Invictus Games.

Branches that wish to donate from legacy (if eligible), CCLA (if eligible) or BFI balances:

- If not using LOMAS: Please send in the usual form to Branch Accounts with authorisations and the clear instruction it is intended for Team UK. (BPT BFI not eligible). Please note the cash will not be paid out to you to be paid back to us, we will process an internal transfer only. The Team UK team will be notified of any income you kindly donate and you will receive a notification of thanks from them in return.

- If using LOMAS: Select the Internal Transfer option (as opposed to Deposit or Payment) in the Lomas Module - Transfer options already include Poppy Appeal, the NMA and Care Homes and will be updated to include Battleback and Team UK as options to select from; donations to either of these causes are welcome.

Branches that wish to donate from cash balances in their local bank accounts:

- Please send in cheques to Haig House finance team by post with a cover letter clearly marked the funds are for the Invictus Games Team UK designated fund.
- Or alternatively if using online banking make your payment to our main Lloyds bank account sort code 30 11 75, account number 01200110, name Royal British Legion and ensure the reference field contains your branch number and Invictus Games Team UK, e.g. "BR1234 Invictus Games donation". Without a reference, the money will not be able to be correctly identified and sent to the Team UK fund pot.

Spotlight on the Battle Back Centre Lilleshall



Established by the Royal British Legion in 2011, the Battle Back Centre Lilleshall was created to support wounded and injured service personnel returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. The Centre's mission is to ensure the best possible recovery for members of the Armed Forces community, whether that means returning to duty or making a successful transition to civilian life.

In addition to its ongoing support for wounded, injured, and sick service personnel, the Centre has recently expanded its services to include wellbeing courses for veterans. These courses focus on adaptive sports and adventurous training activities, such as wheelchair basketball, archery, mountain biking, climbing, and caving. Through these activities, Battle Back fosters camaraderie and provides opportunities for veterans to connect and share experiences.

The Battle Back Centre continues to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those who have served, helping them build resilience and community as they move forward.

RBL and the Men's Shed Movement



The Royal British Legion (RBL) has a formal partnership with the UK Men's Sheds Association (UKMSA) to improve the mental health and well-being of the Armed Forces community, particularly veterans. Key Aspects of the Partnership

Objective: The primary goal is to provide accessible and tailored support for veterans, addressing issues like social isolation, loneliness, depression, and PTSD.

Accessible Spaces: The partnership aims to help existing "Sheds" become more accessible and welcoming to the Armed Forces community, and to establish new "Armed Forces friendly" Sheds.

RBL Care Homes: A specific initiative is the development of Sheds (including "Dementia Sheds") within the RBL's six care homes. The first such RBL-hosted Men's Shed was launched at Galanos House in August 2024.

Awareness and Support: The collaboration increases awareness of RBL's support services across the national network of over 1,000 Men's Sheds.

Funding and Roles: The initiative is supported by the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust, which has funded a new "Armed Forces Lead" role within the UKMSA to drive the creation of new Sheds nationally, focusing on service leavers and veterans.

The Men's Sheds Movement

The Men's Sheds movement provides community spaces where individuals (predominantly men, but many sheds are inclusive) can come together to socialise, share skills, and work on practical projects.

Key benefits include:

Mental Health Support: They offer a non-pressurised environment where men can talk "shoulder to shoulder" (a key slogan of the movement) with others, helping to combat loneliness and improve overall mental well-being.

Skill Sharing: Members can work on personal projects, repair items, or collaborate on community tasks, learning new skills or passing on existing ones.

Community Building: Sheds help members regain a sense of purpose and belonging, integrating them into the community and reducing isolation.

The RBL partnership leverages the proven success of the Men's Shed model to provide tailored support for veterans who may have specific social and emotional needs that are not always met by civilian services. More information can be found on the

[Men's Shed UK](https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/partnerships/our-partners/uk-mens-sheds) and <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/partnerships/our-partners/uk-mens-sheds>

Chipping Norton RBL Poppy Appeal 2025 Update

In a previous newsletter we reported on the work being undertaken by the Chipping Norton Poppy Appeal and their initiative with the sponsored Poppy Plaque's. This article provides an update on their tremendous success and the significant increase in the annual intake.

Poppy Appeal Overview

This year's Chipping Norton RBL Poppy Appeal has been an extraordinary success, marking one of our most positive years of engagement and fundraising to date. Our community once again demonstrated its incredible generosity and support for the Royal British Legion and the work we do for the Armed Forces community.

Sponsor a Poppy Plaque

The Sponsor a Poppy plaque initiative was a tremendous success, with every plaque sponsored, we will be expanding the display next year by adding an additional 12 poppy plaques to commemorate the Battle of the Somme—ensuring that more supporters can participate while honouring a defining moment in our shared history.

The Travelling 5ft Poppy – Chipping Norton Remembers

One of the highlights of this year's appeal was our travelling 5ft poppy, named Chipping Norton Remembers, which covered 34 miles across the region. Along its journey it visited care homes, schools, supermarkets, sport clubs, hotels and hospitals—helping us reach people of all ages and backgrounds, oldest was 104 and youngest was 4. The Poppy became a powerful symbol of remembrance in motion, sparking conversations and strengthening community connections everywhere it went. At each stop, visitors were invited to place a small poppy onto Chipping Norton Remembers, each carrying a personal message dedicated to someone who has served. This simple act created a powerful, collective tribute that grew with every mile.

Stories in Our Shop Front

We also introduced a special remembrance display in a shop front, accompanied by a detailed map showing the locations of every sponsored plaque across Chipping Norton. Together, these displays offered a powerful and accessible way for the community to connect with the stories of the servicemen honoured on the plaques.

The map allowed supporters to explore the town's acts of remembrance, tracing where each tribute was placed. Many people walked the route, discovering the plaques in person and reflecting on the history behind each name. Inside the shop front, visitors could then read the individual stories—poignant windows into the lives of fathers, sons, brothers, and friends whose service shaped our community. The combined display drew significant attention, encouraging reflection, conversation, and a deeper appreciation of the sacrifices made.

Increased Presence, Increased Impact

The increased visibility of the RBL team—supported by volunteers, local groups, and dedicated venues—made a significant difference in the appeal's success. Last year, Chipping Norton raised **£14,000** during the Poppy Appeal period. This year, after all counting is completed, we will surpass **£34,000**, representing an incredible **142% increase**.

This remarkable achievement reflects the dedication of our volunteers, the enthusiasm of our community partners, and the unwavering generosity of the people of Chipping Norton.

Looking Ahead

With momentum building and new initiatives planned, including the expanded Somme commemoration plaques, we are confident that next year's Poppy Appeal will be even more impactful. Thank you to everyone who supported, donated, sponsored, or helped spread the message of remembrance.

Together, we continue to ensure that the memory of those who served—and those who still serve—is honoured with dignity and respect.

Tjark





Diary Dates

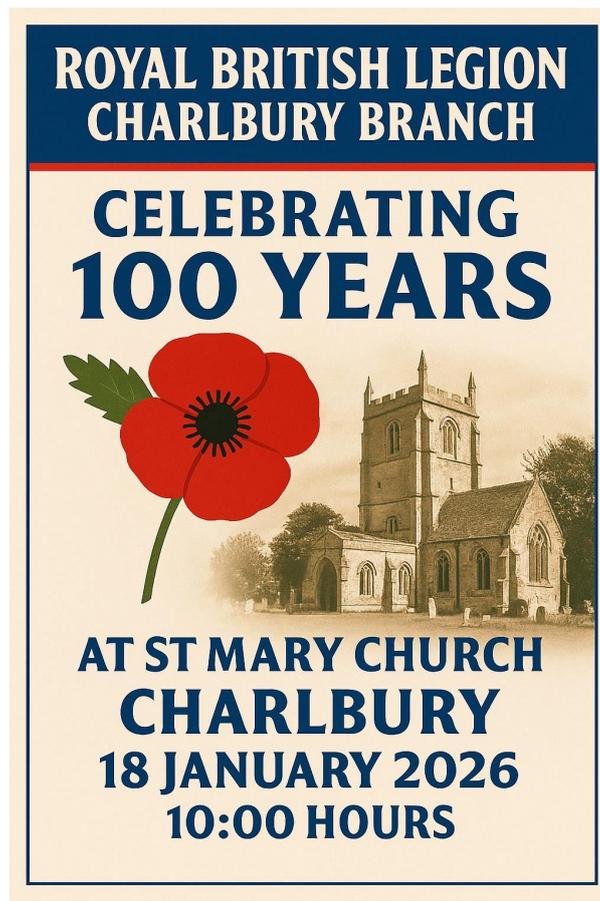


General Branch and County Dates

- **31 Dec 25** - Deadline for the submission of all **MS1s or MS1CSBs and MS1Bs** to the MEO and County Secretary by email
- **14 Jan 26** - County Committee Meeting (Teams) – County Committee Members Only
- **31 Jan 26** – 101st Oxfordshire Annual County Conference – Carterton Community Hall

Charlbury Royal British Legion Branch to Celebrate 100 Years - 18 Jan 26

The Charlbury Branch of the Royal British Legion is proud to announce its 100th anniversary celebration, taking place on 18 January 2026 at St Mary's Church, Charlbury. The commemorative event will begin at 1000hrs, and all members of the community are warmly invited to attend. This special occasion will honour a century of service and remembrance. Following the ceremony, light refreshments will be served, offering an opportunity for guests to connect and share memories. The Branch looks forward to welcoming everyone to mark this important milestone in our branch's history.



Events

Oxfordshire County Standard Bearer Competition Returns After Two Decades

The Oxfordshire County Standard Bearer Competition made a triumphant return on 25 Oct 25 in Carterton—its first in nearly 10 years. The event was a resounding success, thanks to the dedication and enthusiasm of all involved.

The County Chair extends sincere thanks to the Judges, Adjudicators, Participants, and spectators whose presence and support helped make the day so memorable. A special note of appreciation goes to the County Parade Marshal, whose tireless work, commitment, and vision were instrumental in reinstating the competition, supported by a comprehensive training programme that ensured its excellence.

🏆 Competition Results:

- **1st Place:** Tjark Andrews – *Chipping Norton*
- **2nd Place:** Natalie Buxton – *Bampton*
- **3rd Place:** Jacqui Graves – *Stanton Harcourt*
- **4th Place:** David Mannering – *Nettlebed*

👏 Well done to all participants, and thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of this historic day.



County Standard Bearers Lead Act of Remembrance at Oxford United

On Saturday 1 November 2025, Oxford United's home ground became the setting for a moving Act of Remembrance, held in conjunction with the club's Remembrance match against Millwall. The ceremony was led by the County Chair Fiona Lovesey, who was joined by the Ceremonial Team and Standard Bearers from across the County.

The Standard Bearers on the day were Tjark Andrews (County Standard Bearer), Jacqui Graves (Stanton Harcourt) and Natalie Buxton (Bampton), with Pete Clarke serving as the County Parade Marshal (CPM). Together, they represented the County with dignity and respect, honouring the memory of those who served and sacrificed.

The ceremony, held before kick-off, provided an opportunity for players, staff and supporters from both clubs to unite in a moment of reflection and gratitude. The presence of the Standard Bearers and the Ceremonial Team underscored the importance of remembrance within the community and the enduring connection between football and acts of commemoration.

We extend our thanks to all who participated and supported this important event, ensuring that the legacy of remembrance continues to be honoured at the heart of our County.



Remembrance and Armistice Day 2025 Across the County

Communities across Oxfordshire gathered in solemn reflection to honour the men and women who gave their lives while serving in the Armed Forces. On Remembrance Sunday, 9 November, and Armistice Day, 11 November, services were held throughout the county, with local Branches and our dedicated Standard Bearers playing a central role in commemorative events.

From village greens to town or City centres, residents paused for a moment of silence, united in gratitude and remembrance. Wreaths were laid, prayers were offered, and stories of courage and sacrifice were shared, ensuring that the legacy of those who served endures for generations to come.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated, especially our Standard Bearers, whose presence and commitment embody the spirit of remembrance. Their involvement in parades and ceremonies helped make these occasions truly meaningful.

Below, is a selection of photos capturing the services and parades held across the region, reflecting the community's respect and appreciation for our Armed Forces.



2 - Henley on Thames - Branch President John Green with cadet Branch Standard Bearer



3 - Benson - The County Chair Fiona Lovesey with Mr Richard Venables Deputy Lieutenant Oxfordshire led by Standard Bearer Dave Copper with County/Branch Secretary Rob Lovesey as Parade Marshal.



4 - Chipping Norton - Standard Bearer Steve Holland at the Chipping Norton Act of Remembrance



5 - Deddington - Branch Chair Robert Forsyth leads the Deddington community and Branch Standard Bearer James Greenwood on the march to the village war memorial



6 - *Carterton* - Branch Chair Brian Barrett and Standard Bearer Trevor Butler at the Carterton War Memorial



7 - *Stanton Harcourt* - Standard Bearer Jacqui Graves attended Cheltenham Girls School on Armistice Day as they marked the Act of Remembrance. Jacqui also gave a lecture on her work with the Royal British Legion as a Branch Standard Bearer.

Festival of Remembrance: A Night of Reflection and Tribute

On Saturday 8 Nov 25, Oxfordshire's County Standard Bearer, Tjark Andrews, proudly represented the County at the prestigious Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance, held at the Royal Albert Hall in London.

The Festival of Remembrance is a moving annual event that brings together members of the Royal Family, veterans, serving personnel, and the public to honour the sacrifices made by the British and Commonwealth Armed Forces. This year's festival was especially significant, marking the 80th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War and the 25th Anniversary of the lifting of the ban on openly gay, lesbian and bisexual personnel serving in the Armed Forces.

The evening began with the stirring parade of over 80 Royal British Legion Standards, a moment of pride for all Standard Bearers involved. Tjark Andrews, who has served as Oxfordshire's Standard Bearer since 2021, joined his peers in the solemn procession, symbolising the unity and enduring spirit of the Legion.

The Ceremony featured personal testimonies from veterans, musical performances by artists such as Rod Stewart and Hannah Waddington, and the iconic poppy drop during the national two-minute silence. The presence of senior members of the Royal Family, including King Charles, Queen Camilla, Princess of Wales and Prince George, underscored the national importance of the occasion.

Standard Bearers play a vital ceremonial role at such events, representing their counties and branches with dignity and precision. Their participation is the result of rigorous training and selection, reflecting both personal commitment and the collective values of the Royal British Legion.

Tjark's involvement in the Festival of Remembrance is a testament to his dedication and high regard in which he is held by the County and the wider Legion community. His presence at the Royal Albert Hall ensured that Oxfordshire was represented with honour at one of the most significant events in the national calendar.

We extend our congratulations and thanks to Tjark Andrews for his exemplary service and for upholding the proud traditions of the Royal British Legion.



The Cenotaph: Leading the Nation in Remembrance

Whilst Tjark was attending the Festival of Remembrance, our County Parade Marshal Pete Clarke was marking preparations for being one of the Parade Marshals at the National Act of Remembrance at the Cenotaph. This ceremony, held on Remembrance Sunday, is the nation's focal point for honouring all who have served and sacrificed. Led by His Majesty the King, the service included a two-minute silence, the laying of wreaths by members of the Royal Family and ;political leaders, and a march past of nearly 10,000 veterans. Pete was the Lead Marshal for the Second Column of Royal Air Force veterans.

Parade Marshals like Pete play a crucial role in ensuring the smooth running of this historic event, guiding veterans and associations through the ceremonial proceedings and upholding

the dignity and order of the parade. Their dedication allows the nation to pay its respects in a manner befitting the gravity of the occasion.

A Community at the Heart of Remembrance

We are immensely proud of Tjark and Pete for representing our community at these national events. Their involvement is a reminder that remembrance is not just a moment, but a living tradition - one that connects us to our past and inspires us to support those who serve today.

As we reflect on these acts of remembrance let us continue to honour the service and sacrifice of all members of the Armed Forces past and present.



Kingham RBL Joins ‘Poppies to Paddington’ for Armistice Day Remembrance

The Chair of Kingham Royal British Legion (RBL), Mazza Holland, along with members of the Branch, proudly participated in this year’s ‘Poppies to Paddington’ initiative, presenting a commemorative wreath aboard the special remembrance train to London Paddington for Armistice Day.

The ‘Poppies to Paddington’ initiative, now in its sixth year, brings together communities from across the Great Western Railway (GWR) network. Wreaths from over 60 stations—including Kingham—are placed on early-morning trains and carried to Paddington Station, where they are laid at the iconic War Memorial on Platform 1. This moving tribute honours those who made the ultimate sacrifice in World War I, World War II, and conflicts since.

This year’s event was especially poignant, marking 80 years since the end of the Second World War and celebrating 200 years since the birth of the modern railway. The ceremony at Paddington was attended by Her Majesty The Queen, who laid a wreath and joined veterans, railway staff, and community representatives in a service of remembrance. The Military Wives Choir performed, and a two-minute silence was observed at 11am, uniting the nation in reflection.

The Kingham RBL’s participation highlights the enduring importance of remembrance in our local community. By joining the ‘Poppies to Paddington’ journey, the Branch ensured that Kingham’s gratitude and respect for the fallen were part of this national act of remembrance.

Chair Mazza Holland commented, "It is a privilege to represent Kingham and to honour those who gave so much. The journey to Paddington is a powerful reminder of the connections between our communities and the sacrifices made by so many."

The Royal British Legion continues to support veterans and their families throughout the year. The Poppy Appeal remains a vital part of this work, and the Kingham Branch thanks all who contributed to this year's remembrance activities.



Roll of Honour



- **Late Brian Arthur Charles Berriman - 101-year RAF Veteran** – the funeral held on 15 Sep 25 at North Oxfordshire Crematorium.
- **Late Ivor Dudley Townsend - Kingham RBL** - the funeral was held on 30 Sep 25 at Kingham Church
- **Late John Tinkham former REME** - the internment was held on 18 Oct 25 at the Chipping Norton cemetery
- **Late Dennis Ian Hambridge former Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry** - the funeral was held on 21 Nov 25 at teh Oxford Crematorium

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[Oxfordshire County Royal British Legion](#)

RBL Oxfordshire Web-Page



*8 - Keep updated with RBL Oxfordshire information at
<https://counties.britishlegion.org.uk/counties/oxfordshire>*

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Oxfordshire Veterans Group

