

## Editor's Notes

As we enter the start of the reporting season for branches, it's time to plan your Committee and branch meetings (including the AGM) around the deadlines ie 30 Sep for accounts and 31 Dec for MS1 etc.



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## County Chair's Message

Hi Everyone. Unfortunately I am having to send this message to you from Northampton General Hospital, where I am receiving treatment for kidney failure. This all starting from a routine visit to my doctor on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> June at which I was "blue lighted" to Kettering General Hospital and taken to Intensive Care, where they identified that my kidneys had failed. Now in the Finedon Ward, I am receiving regular dialysis which might be a permanent thing.

Despite this, I am looking forward to getting home (hopefully by this weekend) and fully resuming my duties as County Chairman to keep supporting branches and members as much as possible.

I have to say thank you to Nick Fall for keeping the standard bearer training and event planning on track and also Steve Thatcher who has very much been "holding the fort" during my absence. Steve has also been in touch on a regular basis both by phone and hospital visits for which I am very grateful.

I am pleased to hear that planning is underway for the VJ Day 80 Service at the Holy Sepulchre Church, Northampton on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August and it would please me very greatly if all branches could be represented including their standard bearers. You should all have received an invitation from the County Secretary.

A huge thank you to everyone who has been in touch to send their best wishes and for the get well cards I have received.

Editor's Contact: [Northamptonshire.Secretary@rbl.community](mailto:Northamptonshire.Secretary@rbl.community)

**PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR ALL THE LATEST INFORMATION**

[HTTPS://COUNTIES.BRITISHLEGION.ORG.UK/COUNTIES/NORTHAMPTONSHIRE/](https://counties.britishlegion.org.uk/counties/northamptonshire/)

## TRAINING NEWS

All RBL training (except for Standard Bearers) is available on the Discover Portal which everyone can register and then book those courses which are mandatory or they wish to do. Some are on-line only whilst others might need you to attend face-to-face.

**The following are currently available:**

- **Safeguarding Adults (mandatory for all BCS staff)**
- **Data Protection (mandatory for all County and Branch Officers)**
- **Branch Management (mandatory for all new branch officers)**
- **County Management (mandatory for all County officers)**
- **Branch Recruiting Advisor**
- **Branch Treasurer (mandatory for all new treasurers)**
- **LOMAS (recommended for all new users)**
- **Secretaries Course (Branch and County)**
- **Branch Community Support (BCS) - New Supporter (mandatory)**
- **BCS Coordinator (mandatory for all Coordinators)**
- **BCS Refresher (to be completed every two years by all BCS staff)**
- **Informal Resolution**
- **Outlook Navigation**
- **Membership Administration Portal (MAP) General (New)**
- **Safeguarding Children (New)**
- **Membership IT Basics (New)**

**The next Branch Management (Parts 2 and 3) sessions for Northamptonshire branches will be held via MS Teams on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July, 13<sup>th</sup> September and 15<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

For further details including Course Prospectus, guidance on how to register and book on Discover, please visit the Training for Branches page of our website at <https://counties.britishlegion.org.uk/counties/northamptonshire/training-for-branches/>

### Standard Bearer Training

Training will take place on the following dates:

**Tuesday 8th July  
and Thursday 17th July 2025**

Training takes place at the Army Reserve Forces Centre Drill Hall, Clare Street, Northampton from 19.00 to 20.30hrs. Any queries please contact the County Parade Marshal [Northamptonshire.ViceChairman@rbl.community](mailto:Northamptonshire.ViceChairman@rbl.community).



**Anyone interested in being a Standard Bearer or Parade Marshal, please come along to one of our sessions.**

**Any queries about branch training please contact [Northamptonshire.CTO@rbl.community](mailto:Northamptonshire.CTO@rbl.community)**



## Your County Committee

Full details of the County Committee are available on the County website.



The next County Committee meeting will take place on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2025.

## County Committee Vacancies

**Please note that the relevant forms and guidance have been issued by the MEO to all compliant branches)**

**County Vice Chair** - nominations from branches should be submitted on the form provided **to the MEO with** CV and photo by no later than 1700hrs on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025 with result of the election being announced at the January 2026 County Conference. An interim Vice Chair will be co-opted until then.

**County Treasurer** - this post is appointed by the County Committee. Branch nominations **should be forwarded to the County Secretary on the form provided as soon as possible** for a suitably qualified and experienced treasurer to fill this post as an interim measure until January 2026. The incumbent will then be appointed for a further year.

**County Committee** - there are currently 4 vacancies on the Committee which are open to all branch members. Branch nominations **should be forwarded to the County Secretary on the form provided as soon as possible.**

Training and support will be provided for all posts where necessary.



## VJ Day 80 Commemorative Service

A Service will be held in the Holy Sepulchre Church, Northampton on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2025, starting at 11.00am. Invitations have been sent out to civic dignitaries, military organisation and all branches in the County.

Please RSVP to the County Secretary by no later than 1<sup>st</sup> August 2025.

## Year End Branch Accounts

The accounting year for branches ended on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025 and the MEO has sent out the relevant packs to all branches so you can get your return submitted by no later than 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025. However, it would be appreciated if you could submit your return earlier to the MEO where possible please.

The packs include everything you need to know about finalising and submitting your account on time.

If you need to find an Internal Assessor to review your account, a list is maintained by the MEO.

If you have not received a pack, please email the MEO as soon as possible.

## Diary Notes

### **30<sup>th</sup> June 2025 - End of Branch Accounting Year**

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July - County Committee meeting

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2025 - VJ Day 80

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2025 - County VJ Day 80 Service at Holy Sepulchre Church

### **30<sup>th</sup> September 2025 - Deadline for submission of Branch accounts to MEO**

## Branch News

RBL Rushden Branch have just published their Newsletter which you can view on their website. The link is:

<https://branches.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/rushden/newsletters/>

At the RBL Desborough Branch VE Day service they also had an early morning gathering, with a breakfast of bacon rolls. On Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June they held their Armed Forces Lunch with Joanne Wilson from Galanos House as a guest speaker, who was delighted to receive a cheque for £2,000 from the branch.



**Northampton Post 45 Service at  
Towcester Road Cemetary  
Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

