



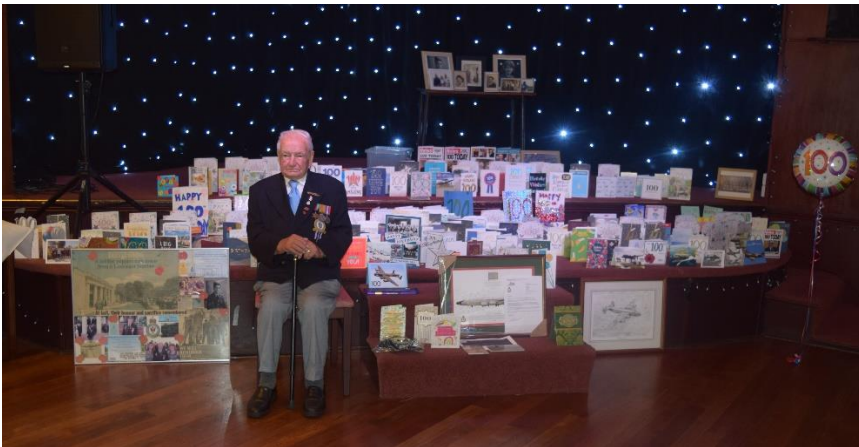
RBL Contact Centre number 0808 802 8080 for Welfare Queries.
Membership helpline 0800 3077 773

Somerset RBL County Bulletin: 5th September 2025 No: 235
To: All Somerset RBL Branches

Dear All

Thank you from Sarah & I, to all the branches who have submitted their accounts already. We know this is very time consuming and your efforts are appreciated. Those accounts that are still outstanding could I please ask if you could submit them, please, to ensure we are all kept compliant.

Roy Bidgood's 100 birthday party - Bob Mansergh was in attendance and presented Roy with a certificate. There were 557 cards in the end and Dave Moore tells me it was an amazing sight as you can see from the photos:



Please do continue to send me any articles, stories, or other things for the Bulletins, which come out usually every Friday.

I wish you all the best and please all take care of yourselves.

Best wishes Kate

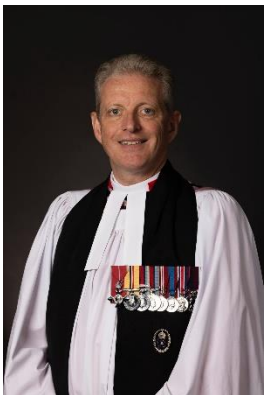


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*"One day you'll look back and
realise how hard it was, and just
how well you did."*

Announcing RBL's new National Chaplain



The Venerable Dr Giles Legood has been appointed to the role of RBL's National Chaplain. The National Chaplain provides spiritual and pastoral care and supports flagship remembrance events, including the Festival of Remembrance.

Giles brings considerable experience from his career and pastoral role in the RAF. He was ordained into the Church of England in 1992. Having served as a curate in Hertfordshire, he was appointed Chaplain and Honorary Lecturer in the University of London in 1995. While working at the university he was commissioned as a Reservist Chaplain, before joining the RAF as a Regular in 2007. Giles' career in the military follows in the footsteps of his father, who undertook National Service in Cyprus with the Grenadier Guards.

During his service with the RAF, Giles has served in Iraq, Afghanistan, the Falklands, Germany, Cyprus, Ascension Island, and Kenya. In the UK he has worked on flying, training, and HQ units. For his work as chaplain to the UK Joint Force Medical Group, Afghanistan he was appointed MBE in the March 2014 Operational Honours List.

He became a Member of the Royal College of Defence Studies in London in 2021 and, in August 2022, on completion of the course, he was promoted to Air Vice-Marshal to become Chaplain-in-Chief.

In 2018 he was appointed Honorary Chaplain to HM The Queen, and in 2022 to HM The King. In 2023 he was made a Fellow of King's College London.



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RBL Director General, Mark Atkinson, said: "We are very pleased to announce that the Venerable Dr Giles Legood has been appointed to the position of National Chaplain.

"With many years of experience as a chaplain in the Royal Air Force, Giles' appointment is warmly welcomed by all at the RBL, especially as we near the poignant Remembrance period.

"He will play a significant role in the Festival of Remembrance when the nation reflects on the sacrifices made by the military and their families, and we look forward to working with him during the time he'll be in post."

Chief of Defence Staff, Air Chief Marshal Sir Rich Knighton KCB ADC FREng, said: "I am delighted to see that Giles Legood, the RAF's Chaplain-in-Chief, has been appointed as the RBL's National Chaplain. I am certain that he will serve the RBL just as brilliantly as he does the Royal Air Force."

This appointment follows the departure of the Revd Scott Brown, who unfortunately had to step down from the position in 2024 due to ill-health.

Shepton Mallet RBL

Shepton Mallet Royal British Legion Branch held their AGM on Monday 1st September. Andy Ransom was awarded a certificate in recognition of his nine years of service as he stood down from being Chairman of the Branch. Mike Allison the Chairman of Somerset RBL presented the certificate.





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A warm welcome has been extended by all as Ed Freely steps up to the plate to assume Chairmanship of the Branch. Everyone wishes him success as he carries the Branch forward.

Jan Crewe, the Branch Poppy Appeal Organiser was awarded a Gold RBL Badge for her outstanding efforts in raising funds every year over the Remembrance period in November. The badge was awarded by SMRBL President Tony Dalby-Welsh.



Two new members joined the Branch at the AGM and received a friendly welcome. Please remember anyone can join the Royal British Legion, you do not have to be a member of the Armed Forces. SMRBL Branch is strongly supported by the local villages of Doultong, Cranmore, Pilton, Dinder, Evercreech, Dean and Oakhill in Somerset.

Andy Ransom
CRO Somerset RBL
SMRBL Membership Secretary.



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On 15th August, a group of Villagers gathered at the War Memorial for a short Remembrance Service for the WW2 Servicemen who were fighting in the Far East, whose war continued for three months after the war in Europe had finished. Amongst the gathering was the Widow of a Far Eastern Prisoner of War, the Son of a Sailor who escaped when the Japanese invaded a Royal Navy Base in China, and the Son of Pilot from the Battle of Britain.

On 15th August 1945, Victory over Japan Day brought the Second World War to its conclusion. After years of unimaginable sacrifice, hardship, and endurance, peace returned. But it came at a heavy price. We remembered the courage of those who fought in the Far East —often called the Forgotten Army — and those who endured captivity, hardship, and loss. Their service was no less vital, their sacrifice no less profound.

Just five years earlier, in the Summer of 1940, Britain stood on the brink. The skies over our Island were the battlefield of The Battle of Britain. In those desperate months, young men of the Royal Air Force — many still in their teens and early twenties, from Britain, the Commonwealth, and Allied Nations — fought with skill, bravery, and determination. They faced overwhelming odds, and yet they prevailed.

These two anniversaries, -- separated by five years, but forever linked — remind us of the resilience, unity, and courage that defined a generation. They remind us too of the cost of war, borne not only by those in uniform, but by families, communities, and the nations across the world.

On 15th September at 11am, there will be another short Remembrance Service at the War Memorial, to remember the Pilots of the Royal Air Force, several of whom are listed on the Memorial.

As we stand there, in the peace they secured for us, let us renew our commitment to Remembrance. Not simply to look back with gratitude, but to look forward with resolve; to honour their legacy by working for peace, unity and understanding in our own time.

Dave Addis, Long Ashton Branch Secretary





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IMPORTANT - REMINDER - ALL BRANCHES PLEASE ENSURE THIS IS PASSED ON TO YOUR STANDARD BEARER

There will be Standard Bearer training sessions at Highbridge Community Hall, TA9 3BP, on **Saturday 20th & 27th September from 1400 - 1600.**

There will be training for the Somerset Festival of Remembrance for SBs – Saturday 11th and 18th October 2025 1400 -1600.

All Standard Bearers are invited to attend.

John Gallop

Somerset County Standard Bearer



REMINDER - Royal Marines Band Concert Bristol Beacon 17 September



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Please see the link below for an opportunity to get a ticket to the Royal Marines Band concert at Bristol Beacon
Weds 17 September.

It will be an unforgettable evening of music, precision, and pageantry as the world-renowned Massed Bands of His Majesty's Royal Marines take to the stage for their spectacular UK tour. Featuring a mix of military classics, rousing film scores, and breathtaking solo performances, this concert will leave you full of pride. Witness the impeccable discipline of our world-famous Corps of Drums and the unmistakable sound of one of the finest military ensembles in the world.

[The Massed Bands of His Majesty's Royal Marines | Bristol Beacon](#)

REMINDER - IMPORTANT - Mason's PSA Testing

PSA testing dates are as follows.

Saturday 4th October

Masonic Hall Co Ltd, 23 Henford, Yeovil BA20 1TQ

Saturday 8th November

Masonic Hall, Nailsea Park, Nailsea, Bristol BS48 1BA

Timings for both dates are as follows 1000hrs to 1300hrs.

Klaus Galeitzke, Bridgwater Branch Vice Chairman



Welcome to Silver Trees Community Hub

A place to connect, laugh, learn and thrive.

Looking for a friendly place
to spend your day?
Come along to Silver Trees
Community Hub - a warm,
welcoming space for older adults
to relax, make new friends, enjoy
fun activities and tuck into a tasty
three-course meal



What we offer

- Engaging daily activities & workshops
- Guest speakers, light learning,
seasonal events & entertainers
- Time to socialise and make new friends
- A delicious three-course lunch and
refreshments throughout the day
- A relaxed, friendly atmosphere - with
plenty of laughter

At £52.50 per day (10am-3pm)

**Monday to Friday
Limited Spaces Available**

Includes:

- Full access to all activities
- A restaurant style three-course meal
from our home cooked menu
- Refreshments throughout the day

(Please note: Transport is not included. But we are
working closely with local transport providers and will
support you in finding a solution if needed.)

Contact: 01275 859556
silvertrees.wellbeing@handsale.co.uk



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Weston - super - Mare Branch



Touchpoint –

To support Veterans, serving personnel and their families.

Every Thursday between

10:00 to 14:00 hrs



< All Welcome >

To enjoy a tea / coffee, have a chat and make some new friends

Extra coffee Mornings for 2025

Wednesday 26 th February	Wednesday 29 th July
Wednesday 26 th March	Wednesday 27 th August
Wednesday 23 rd April	Wednesday 24 th September
Wednesday 28 th May	Wednesday 23 rd October
Wednesday 18 th June	Wednesday 26 th November
Wednesday 17 th December Minus Plus	

Venue: 77 Meadow Street, WsM BS23 1QL

We can also be found on Facebook and RBL website



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War Veterans - Skin Cancer and War Pensions

(War pensions agency) = Veterans Agency = an executive of the Ministry of Defence (MoD)

Did you know that if you have had a skin cancer or certain precancers that you may be eligible for a War Pension.

Contact:

Director of Medical Services
Veterans Agency
Room 6403 Norcross
Blackpool
Lancs
FY5 3WP

Tel: 01253 332 407

www.veterans-uk.info/

HMS Heron Christmas Concert under Concorde

<https://tickets.historicdockyard.co.uk/webstore/shop/viewItems.aspx?cg=FAAM01&c=FAAMXMAS>

Details are:

HMS Heron Volunteer Band Christmas Concert

11th and 12th December 2025

7.00 pm doors open for 7.30 start

Tickets £20 to include a mince pie and glass of mulled wine.



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Pawlett Branch Events

We hold a COFFEE MORNING with a bring and buy table and raffle on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the RBL Club 10.30am, Pawlett RBL Club, 29 Old Main Road, Pawlett TA6 4RY.

2025

10 September

8 October

5 November (10.15am)

10 December

2026

14 January

11 February

11 March

8 April

13 May

10 June

8 July

PROGRAMME OF SPEAKERS FOR PAWLETT RBL 2025-2026

Meetings are normally the third Monday of the month commencing at 2.30pm. £3 entrance which includes refreshments and raffle.

All talks are on a Monday.

MONDAY 15th September 2025 - Speaker: John Smith speaking on The Battle of Britain over Somerset 1940

MONDAY 20 October 2025 – Speaker: Stephen Powles. Tawny Owls coming to a wood near you

MONDAY 17 November 2025– Speaker: Angie Scofield . My Life in Uniform

MONDAY 15 December 2025 – Speaker: Neil Clarke. Islands of the Bristol Channel

MONDAY 19 January 2026 – Speaker: Captain David Parsons. The history and work of Trinity House

MONDAY 16 February 2026 - Speaker: Mike Rowlands. English Pubs and signs

MONDAY 16 March 2026 – Speaker: Brian Wright. Nursery Rhymes

MONDAY 20 April 2026 – Speaker: Andy Willett. Antarctica



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MONDAY 18 May 2026 – Speaker: May Christopher Forrester speaking on Be Sober, be vigilant. The history of the Metropolitan Police Horse Service.

This Week's Quiz

- 1) Julie Walters starred alongside which British actor in the film adaptation of Willy Russell's 'Educating Rita'?
- 2) Alongside English, what is the official language of Tanzania?
- 3) The 'Iceberg Theory', a minimalistic style focusing on surface elements without explicitly discussing underlying themes is the writing style of which American author?
- 4) Dr. John 'J.D.' Dorian and Christopher Turk were two main characters from which American TV comedy series set at the fictional Sacred Heart teaching hospital?
- 5) Who was the first European to reach Lake Victoria? He was also known for producing the Hamitic hypothesis.
- 6) Liberty City, Vice City and San Andreas are all fictional cities in which video game series?
- 7) Pip, Estella, and Miss Havisham feature in which Dickens tale?
- 8) Born in Hereford in 1986, which British solo singer had UK number one singles with 'Burn' and 'Love Me Like You Do'?
- 9) Despite missing the third test with concussion, which Australian cricketer finished the 2019 Ashes series as top run scorer with 774 runs in seven innings?
- 10) Which famous river flows through Paris in to the English Channel at Le Havre?

Answers Next week

Last Week's Quiz Answers:

- 1) Kerberos, a gigantic three-headed hound is said to guard who's gates? **Hades**
- 2) What is the name of Woody and Buzz's owner in the Toy Story film franchise? **Andy**
- 3) What is the most common name of British monarchs? **Henry**
- 4) In a pack of standard playing cards, which card is also known as 'the dame'? **Queen**
- 5) The Giulia, Giulietta and Stelvio models of car are produced by which Italian car company? **Alfa Romeo**
- 6) Which English football club play their home games at Priestfield Stadium? **Gillingham**

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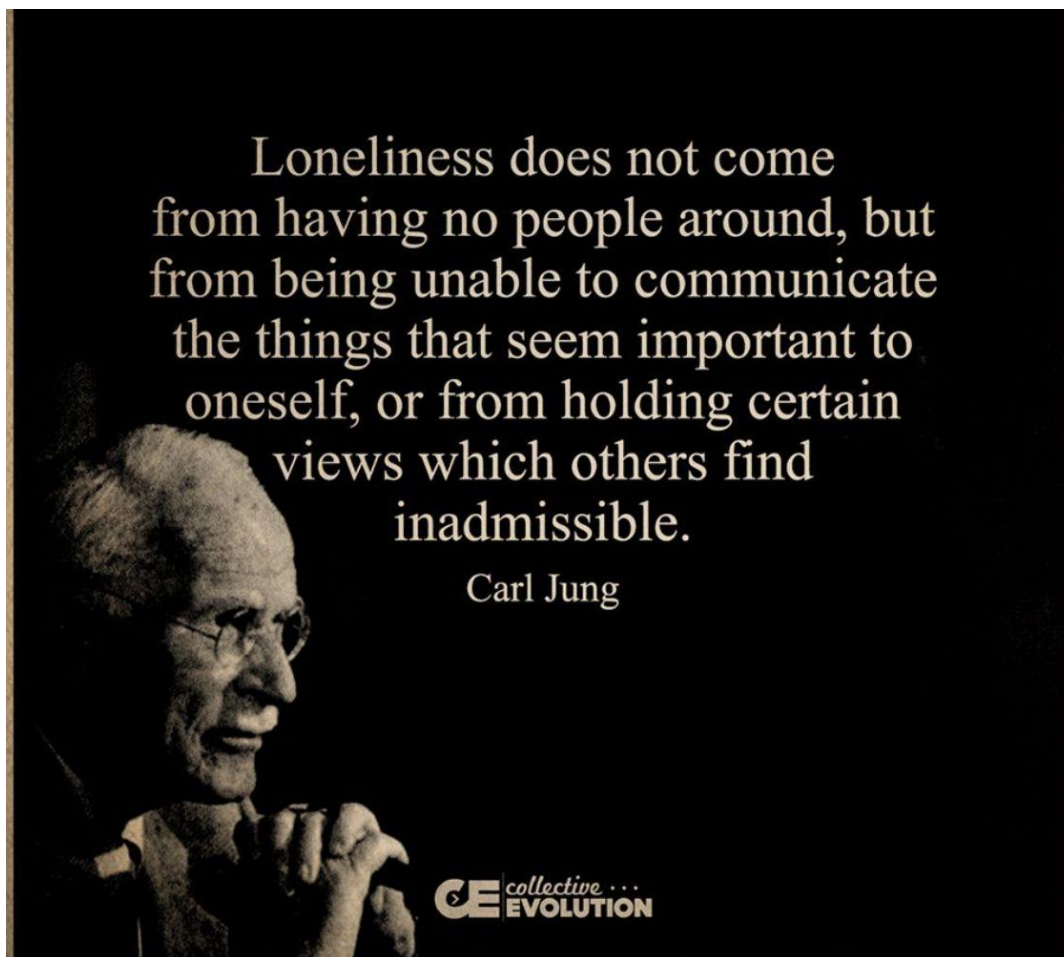
7) In the fairy tale, what is the name of Hansel's sister? **Gretel**

8) Billy McFarland and rapper Ja Rule were behind which problematic "luxury" music festival? **Fyre Festival**

9) Which 'L' is a British sports brand best associated with boxing kit? **Lonsdale**

10) Which Peruvian city represents the letter 'L' in the NATO phonetic alphabet? **Lima**

Something to finish with:



Carl Gustav Jung (26 July 1875 – 6 June 1961) was a Swiss psychiatrist, psychotherapist, and psychologist who founded the school of analytical psychology. A prolific author of over twenty books, illustrator, and correspondent, Jung was a complex and convoluted academic, best known for his concept of archetypes. Alongside contemporaries Sigmund Freud and Alfred Adler, Jung became one of the most influential psychologists of the early 20th century and has fostered not only scholarship, but also popular interest.