

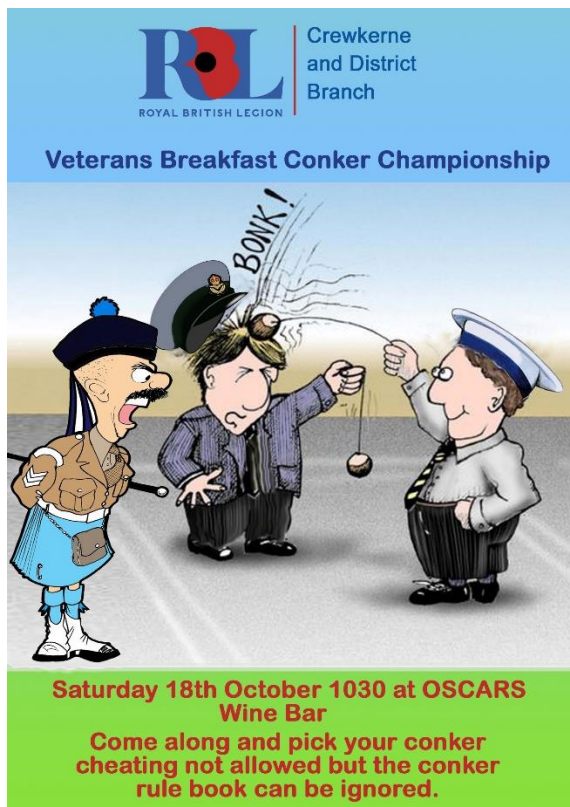


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Membership helpline 0800 3077 773

**Somerset RBL County Bulletin: 26<sup>th</sup> September 2025 No: 237**  
**To: All Somerset RBL Branches**

Dear All

Last weekend I was on holiday in Arras with Taunton RBL/RCT/RAOC and on my way back I was in the queue at Calais passport control, and suddenly realised Steve Buck (Keynsham), Dave & Lindsay Moore (W&P Branch) and Dennis Herniman were in the queue! Dave's report on their trip is below, I will write up mine for next week.



**FROM HQ** - We are currently in the process of upgrading the Branch and County Website system (called Umbraco). This will ensure that it is on a stable and future proof version for us to continue using.

As part of the upgrade there will be an enforced Content Freeze from **Monday 6th October for one week**. The new version of Umbraco will be ready for you to use on Monday 13th October.

During the Content Freeze **please do not add any new content to your branch or county website** as these will be removed when the update is complete and cannot be recovered.

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



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

Best wishes Kate

***"Always speak the truth. It costs less" – Alan Rickman (1946-2016)***

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### **'Somerset Festival of Remembrance – 1 November 2025**

We're proud to invite everyone to the Somerset Festival of Remembrance at Wells Cathedral on Saturday 1 November 2025, marking the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

✎ **Book your tickets now:** [Eventbrite link](#) or **scan the QR** code on our poster for easy booking.

📌 Spread the word – share with family, friends, local groups, and on your community Facebook pages. Let's come together to honour those who served and make this a truly memorable event.

#SomersetRemembers #RoyalBritishLegion #Remembrance'

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### **TRAINING NEWS**

All RBL training (except for Standard Bearers) is available on the Discover Portal which everyone can register on 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 courses are currently available:

Safeguarding Adults (mandatory for all BCS staff)  
Data Protection (for all County and Branch Officers)  
Branch Management (for all new branch officers)  
County Management (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 (for all Coordinators)  
BCS Refresher (to be completed every two years by all BCS staff)  
Informal Resolution  
Outlook Navigation  
Membership Administration Portal (MAP) General  
Safeguarding Children  
Membership IT Basics  
Preparing Motions for Conference (NEW)

Please contact me should you have any queries. Being new to the role, I shall soon start advertising on Discover the face-to-face courses and happy to visit your location to deliver training.



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Penny Mottram

Somerset County Training Officer

[Somerset.CTO@rbl.community](mailto:Somerset.CTO@rbl.community)

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### **Royal Hospital Chelsea**

On the weekend of 13/14th Sept I was fortunate enough to visit London Town for a reunion at HMS President on the Saturday evening. One of my pals had a chum who was ex REME living as a Chelsea pensioner. Currently the hospital has 280 pensioners with a maximum capacity for 320. We were shown around the hospital and saw the chapel, a Sergeant's berth and a privates berth in the museum and finished off our visit with a few pints in the Club. A great place to see, apparently, they do paid guided tours as well.

Andy Ransom

County Recruiting Officer Somerset RBL



The chapel where Margaret Thatcher worshiped. She is buried in the cemetery within the hospital grounds.



Sergeants berth



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Privates berth.



PS. The pensioners are in red, but my pal and I are not far behind !

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### **Whitchurch & Pensford trip to Normandy 2025**

On the weekend of 19th - 22nd September, Whitchurch and Pensford took a party of 40 over to Normandy with Leger travel.

Friday - Travel to Normandy and arrive at Caen at 8pm

Saturday - We visited Pegasus Bridge and Museum, Ranville Cemetery, Ouistru for lunch, Sword Beach and then had a remembrance service with Standard and laid wreaths at the British Normandy Memorial at Arramanch, in a force 10 gale.

Sunday - We started at the British War Graves at Bayeux to pay respects and lay crosses, then on to Utah Beach, very interesting stop at Angoville au Plain Church the site of a first aid station that looked after both US and German





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paratroopers as well as civilians, well worth a visit. Then on to Sainte-Mere-Eglise for lunch. Finally Omaha beach, US Cemetery and the Overlord museum.

Monday - Travel home, bumping into the Taunton RBL trip to Arras at the ferry port, arriving at the W&P RBL at 6.30pm

we had four jam packed days that were very much enjoyed by all. Chairman Bob Sharples and Vice Chairman Dave Moore would like to thank everyone who supported this trip. Special mentions to Dennis Herniman (Pawlett Branch Chairman), Steve Buck (Keynsham Branch President), Mary Buck (Keynsham Chair, Women's section). Also John Moloney (Patchway & Stoke Gifford Branch, Chairman), Tony Peters (RAFA Chairman, Bristol Branch), Ray Andrews (Royal Marines Association).

We would be interested in doing future trips, if you are interested in joining us you would be very welcome. Please contact us with your details and we will let you know of any upcoming excursions.





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Dave Moore, Whitchurch & Pensford Branch Vice Chairman

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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 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> October 2025 1400 -1600.**

All Standard Bearers are invited to attend.

John Gallop

Somerset County Standard Bearer



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**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

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## 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](mailto:silvertrees.wellbeing@handsale.co.uk)**





**LEVEL 1 AWARD:  
PREPARING TO  
WORK IN SCHOOLS**

***Do you want to work  
within a school? If so, this  
is the course for you!***

This virtual qualification will prepare you for further learning and training, whilst developing an understanding of the teaching and learning environment in a school setting, how to support the wellbeing of a child or young person, and their development.

**On successfully completing this virtual course,  
you will gain qualifications in:**

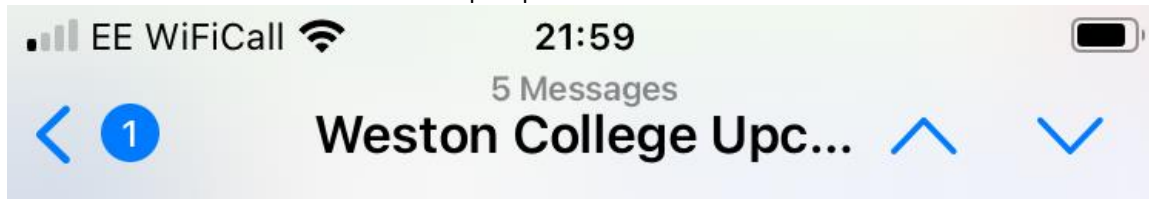
- Level 1 Award in Preparing to Work in Schools
- Level 1 Award in Understanding Safeguarding in Education & Childcare Settings
- Award in Employability Skills
- E3 Award in Prevent Duty Awareness

**Start date: 6th October 2025  
Duration: 2 weeks  
Days: Monday-Friday  
Times: 9:30-15:00  
Location: Virtual Learning  
via Microsoft Teams**





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**I.T FOR BEGINNERS**  
**STEP INTO THE DIGITAL AGE!**

UNDERSTAND THE BASICS OF COMPUTERS AND DIGITAL DEVICES WHILST INCREASING YOUR CONFIDENCE WITH THIS BEGINNER COURSE!

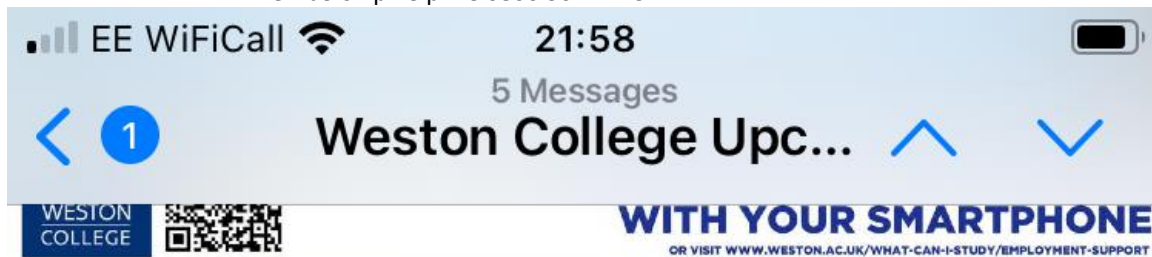
LEARN COMPUTER BASICS FOR DAILY TASKS  
USE YOUR UNIVERSAL CREDIT JOURNAL FOR JOB SEARCH PROGRESS  
SET UP AND REGULARLY USE EMAIL FOR ONLINE COMMUNICATION  
BUILD CONFIDENCE USING A KEYBOARD & ORGANISING FILES  
AN INTRODUCTION TO MICROSOFT WORD, OUTLOOK, TEAMS AND POWERPOINT

**FOLLOWING ON FROM THIS COURSE, WE CAN SUPPORT YOU WITH YOUR NEXT STEPS BEYOND THE PROGRAMME**

**COURSE INFORMATION**  
Start date: 13<sup>th</sup> October 2025  
Days: Monday-Friday  
Time: 9:00-15:00  
Duration: 3 weeks  
Location: Knightstone Campus (Arosfa Building), Town Centre, Knightstone Rd, Weston-super-Mare BS23 2AL



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# CAREERS IN THE CIVIL SERVICE

**SWAP** | SECTOR-BASED WORK ACADEMY PROGRAMME

Department for Work & Pensions

Throughout this programme you will develop your skills, knowledge and gain a better understanding of careers in the Civil Service, the work of the Department of Work and Pensions and the roles currently available.

**YOU WILL COVER:**

- Working in Customer Service
- Applying legislation, regulations & organisational procedures
- Communicating effectively with customers
- Recording and communicating problems

You will gain qualifications in Employability and Customer Service, two key areas that support the role of most Civil Service careers and many jobs in other sectors. You will also gain a full understanding of the 3 stage application process, opportunity to complete practice tests, timings and questions, and experience, understand and utilise the STAR technique.

**COURSE INFORMATION**  
Start date: 13th October 2025  
Times: 9:30 - 16:00  
Days: Monday - Friday  
Duration: 2 weeks  
Location: Virtual Learning through Microsoft Teams  
Please note you must have access to a laptop or PC to complete this course

Depending on your chosen path in the Civil Service, additional training may be available upon completion





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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 <sup>th</sup> February	Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> July
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> August
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> April	Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> September
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> May	Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> June	Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> November
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December (Mince Pies)	

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/](http://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 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at the RBL Club 10.30am, Pawlett RBL Club, 29 Old Main Road, Pawlett TA6 4RY.

#### **2025**

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 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

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

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### **This Week's Quiz**

- 1) At 119 miles long, what is the name of Scotland's longest river?
- 2) The Bolshoi Ballet is based in which city?
- 3) Charleroi is a city in which northern European county?
- 4) Sharon Osbourne, wife of aging rocker Ozzy, was a judge on which British TV music program?
- 5) In a game of cricket, how many runs are awarded for hitting the ball over the boundary rope without it bouncing?
- 6) Which 'O' is the name of the branch of medicine that focuses on eyesight?
- 7) Which silent film starring Jean Dujardin won the Best Film Oscar in 2011?
- 8) William Shakespeare was born in which English market town?
- 9) The Baggies is the nickname of which English football club?
- 10) Prior to joining the Euro and taking its name from the Greek verb 'to grasp', what was the former currency of Greece?

### **Answers Next week**

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### **Last Week's Quiz Answers:**

- 1) Which South American country gained independence from Spain in August 1825? **Bolivia**
- 2) Who was British Prime Minister between 1979 and 1990? **Margaret Thatcher**
- 3) Which actress who starred in True Lies is the godmother of Jake Gyllenhaal? **Jamie Lee Curtis**
- 4) The Cochlea, Malleus and Vestibular nerve are parts of which organ in the body? **Ear**
- 5) 'Au' is the symbol of which precious metal? **Gold**
- 6) Ricky Wilson and Andrew White are members of which British rock band known for 'I Predict a Riot' and 'Rudy'? **Kaiser Chiefs**
- 7) According to the proverb, 'No man is an...'? **Island**
- 8) Which British artist's work includes 'May Dodge, My Nan' and 'My Bed'? **Tracy Emin**



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9) The Siege of Malta took place during which war? **World War Two**

10) What was the title of The Beatles' first studio album, released March 1963? **Please Please Me**

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**Something to finish with:**

