

## **Message from the Editor**

Now that we have received the majority of MS1s, we can see that a number of branches have new officers and committee members. If that applies to you, please sign up for our Branch Management information sessions which are being held using MS Teams - please see Training News for dates.



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## **Message from the County Chair**

**A Happy New Year to all Branch Members, Officers and Committees. As a New Years Resolution can I urge all Branches to ensure that deadlines are met in 2025: Registration for County Conference, Registration for National Conference (Online or in person attendance), Branch Accounts, Form MS1/MS1B and all those other items that require a response.**

**I am fully aware that Branch officers are busy after all the members of the County Committee including the County Chair and Vice Chair are all Branch Officers themselves!**

**To all the Branches and their hard working Branch Officers who have ensured that their Branch has achieved all deadlines in 2024 a very heartfelt and grateful THANK YOU.**

**2025 Will see the 80th Anniversaries of both VE and VJ Days which will be celebrated in the usual Legion fashion. Please let us know what your Branch is doing in advance so that the County Newsletter can publicise the event for you and do send pictures to the County Secretary.**

**Here's to a Great Legion Year**

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

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

# 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**
- **County Management**
- **County Training Officer**
- **County Recruiting Officer**
- **Branch Recruiting Advisor**
- **Branch Treasurer**
- **LOMAS**
- **Independant Examiner.**
- **Secretaries Course (Branch and County) (new)**
- **Branch Community Support**
- **Branch Community Support Coordinator (new)**
- **Branch Community Support Refresher**
- **Informal Resolution**

**The next Branch Management (Parts 2 and 3) sessions will be held via MS Teams on Saturday 8th February and Saturday 8th March 2025.**

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

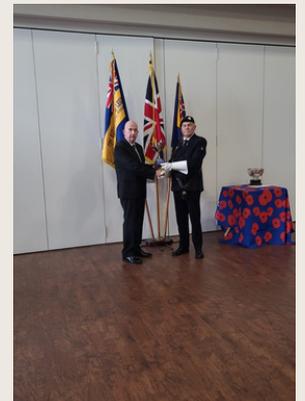
## Standard Bearer Training



We start training again in the New Year in preparation for the County Conference with sessions on

14th and 23rd January 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.ParadeMarshal@rbl.community](mailto:Northamptonshire.ParadeMarshal@rbl.community)



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

## BCS Training

BCS Representatives and Supporters are required to complete Refresher training every two years. Branches have to be BCS registered before New Starter training can commence (see our [webpage](#) for more detailed information)

**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.



### **Notes from the County Committee held on 18th December 2024**

1. The County Chair confirmed that he was still waiting for a response regarding the use of BFI Welfare Funds for BCS work in the County.
2. All branches are reminded that recruitment materials are available from the County (contact the Chair).
3. It was noted that no almonisation reports had been recieved from Haig House since March 2024.
4. The date for the 2026 County Conference was confirmed as 10th January 2026.
5. Committee reviewed a report provided by the Membership Council which showed improvements in service delivery and customer satisfaction.
6. A long discussion was held in regard to recruitment and retention and it was identified that there appeared to be little work being done in that area by branches at the moment. New members need to be formally welcomed into the branch.
7. The potential loss of the Branch Membership Secretary was also discussed; it was agreed that this was still a key role in large branches.
8. Planning for the County Conference continues. However, the number of nominations for new Committee members fell well below the number required.
9. It was greed that, once the County Committee had been established for 2025, a review of "Branch Link" allocations would be made and in particular regarding County Supported Branches.
10. The MEO confirmed that 6 branches had failed to submit their accounts by 30th September 2024 and were therefore non-compliant.

The next County Committee meeting will take place on Wednesday 15th January 2025.

**Are you interested in being a member of the County Committee?**

**If so, please contact the County Secretary**

## Diary Notes

**By 5pm Friday 10th January 2025** (extended) - Branch Delegate Return and Roll of Honour Information for County Conference to be submitted to the County Secretary.

14th January 2025 - Registration opens for the 2025 RBL National Conference.

**By 5pm 17th January 2025** - Submission of nominations for National Chair, Vice Chair, Trustees and Membership Council.

**Saturday 8th February 2025** - Branch Management (Parts 2 and 3) via MS Teams (9.30am to 2.30pm).

## 2025 County Conference

**The Conference will take place on Saturday 1st February 2025 in the Drill Hall at Clare Street, Northampton NN1 3JQ.**

All branches are required to submit the details of delegates and any branch guests by no later than 5pm on Friday 10th January 2025 together with their Roll of Honour Information (i.e. Branch members past and present who have passed away during 2024).



Delegates and guests are asked to arrive at 10.00am to allow for parking and security checking. Proof of ID must be a valid RBL National Membership Card for year 2024/25 for delegates and branch visitors - for non RBL visitors a photo ID required. Conference starts at 10.30am

Guest speakers will include Brigadier David Russell-Parsons OBE DL (Deputy Lord Lieutenant), Daniel Esler, RBL Director of Grants and Quality, Jo-Anne Wilson MBE (Manager RBL Galanos House), Kate Wildman (RBL Head of Audit & Compliance) and Giles Coleman (Poppy Appeal Manager)



Following Conference there will be a short Service of Remembrance

## BRANCH NEWS

**RBL Rushden Branch's latest Newsletter has just been published.**

Please visit their website via [THIS LINK](#)