

## Editor's Notes

As we approach the busiest time of the year for both branches and County, we await with interest the latest version of the Membership Handbook, which will be issued at the end of September. I have been assured that feedback from counties and branches have been considered, not least the shortened version of the MS1s. Rest assured I will be looking at the new version and will highlight any key changes you need to be aware of as soon as I get a copy.



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## County Chair's Message

First of all, may I take this opportunity to thank all branches who participated in the VJ Day 80 service in the Holy Sepulchre Church on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August, including those standard bearers who paraded. Well done to our County Parade Marshal and County Secretary who organised such a successful event.

On a personal note, it was great for me to be able to get out and about and meet members despite my ongoing treatment, and I hope to be able to continue in post for as long as I am able to do so.

On the subject of continuity, may I please request that all branches continue to support the County Committee by encouraging their members to volunteer to fill our vacancies as outlined in this Newsletter - we can't run the County without you!!

Also, our County Parade Marshal has mentioned that we are getting somewhat short of standard bearers across the County - if you would like to have one please discuss with Nick Fall ([northamptonshire.parademarshal@rbl.community](mailto:northamptonshire.parademarshal@rbl.community))

This is the peak activity period for both branches and County and we are here to offer as much support as we possibly can, despite our reduced numbers. Please help us by meeting the timelines for submitting your mandatory year end returns and getting branch information to us in preparation for the 2026 County Conference (which we hope will be back to our usual location in the Council Chambers - information tbc).

As always, thank you for your kind consideration and my very best wishes.

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 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 (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**
- **Safeguarding Children**
- **Membership IT Basics**
- **Preparing Motions for Conference (NEW)**

**The next Branch Management (Parts 2) sessions for Northamptonshire branches will be held via MS Teams on Saturday 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 9th September**  
**Thursday 18th September**  
**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October**  
**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October**

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.**

**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 2nd October 2025. If you have any topics you would like to be included, please contact the County Secretary

## 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 by email 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 by the MEO as soon as possible.**

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

## 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 have not received a pack, please email the MEO as soon as possible

If you need to find an Internal Assessor to review your account, please contact the County Secretary.

## Branch MS1s

We have been advised by Haig House that the new issue of the Membership Handbook, which is due to be published by the end of this month, will contain revised versions of the above forms in a lot shorter form which only need to be completed for the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Parade Marshal. Committee members need to be listed but will no longer sign the form.

Please do not use any old versions when submitting your returns after your Branch AGM. There will still be a separate form for the Standard Bearer (MS1B) which might also be revised.

## Branch Guidance

**A revised version of the AGM Guidance for Branches is now available on the County website.**

Please note that County no longer issues a Guide to Year End Financial Reporting as this is covered sufficiently by documents issued by Haig House and available on MAP. However, if you have any queries or need support in submitting your return please contact the County Treasurer via:  
[Northamptonshire.Treasurer@rbl.community](mailto:Northamptonshire.Treasurer@rbl.community)

## RBL Central News

Central News is a monthly update issued by Haig House which contains a whole host of information including any policy or administrative instructions as well as news stories of interest - **please note this is only issued to branch officers who have a rbl.community email account**. If you are not receiving Central News please contact the County Secretary who can arrange this for you.

## Branch Recruitment

Branch Recruitment resources (leaflets) are now available on request from the County Secretary.

## Diary Notes

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

**1<sup>st</sup> October - 30<sup>th</sup> November 2025 - Branch AGMs held**

2<sup>nd</sup> October 2025 - County Committee Meeting

**19th October 2025 - County Standard Bearers Competition - CANCELLED due to lack of entries)**

6<sup>th</sup> November 2025 - County Committee Meeting

1st December 2025 - Deadline for the submission of Branch motions to County Secretary

4th December 2025 - County Committee Meeting

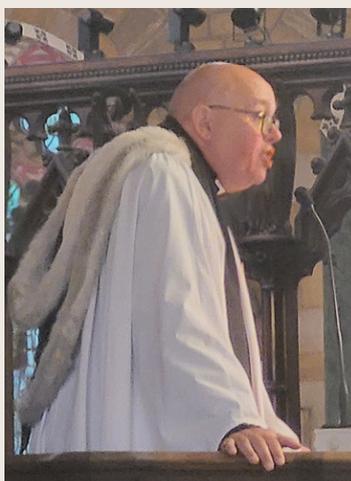
12th December 2025 - Deadline for Branch delegate return for County Conference submitted to County Secretary

30<sup>th</sup> December 2025 - Deadline for the submission of MS1s, MS1B and MS1CSB **(using the new version)** to MEO copy to County Secretary



## County VJ Day 80 Commemorative Service

A Service was held in the Holy Sepulchre Church, Northampton on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2025 led by the Reverend Canon John Hall and attended by civic dignitaries, military organisations and branches from across the County.



## Branch News

### RBL Brixworth Branch

Your paragraph text

On 19th October it's the annual **Ride For Remembrance**, open to all motorbike and scooter riders, meeting at the George Pub, Brixworth from 09.00 to leave by 10.15 for a short ride to Abington Square. Here will be a short memorial and wreath laying. Standards are encouraged to attend a bugler would be good as well.

### RBL Rushden Branch

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/>

**RBL Rushden Branch  
Anniversary of Ending of Falklands War**



**RBL Desborough VJ Day 80 Service**



**If you would like to share your branch stories and photos with the County, please send them to the County Secretary. The next issue of the Newsletter will be published on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2025**