



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION BANWELL

Patron: His Majesty The King

Newsletter – May 2026



Chair's Foreword

Given the ongoing situation in the Middle East, it's crucial that - as the largest Armed Forces charity - we are ready to support those who may be affected during this period. Among those UK Forces currently deployed, some may return wounded, sick, or injured, and we must also be prepared for the possibility that some may lose their lives in service. Our role is to ensure we can respond quickly and compassionately to the needs of serving personnel and their families and this Branch plays an important part in this.

As part of this work, the National Chair is engaging with the national heads of the three cadet forces about building a new partnership with them, at both national and local levels, with a view to getting involved with the RBL not only at national events but also with branches. I am pleased to say that we have a very strong affiliation with the Army Cadets and welcome 2Lt Katie Moran who has taken over as Platoon Commander of the Worle Platoon.

You will by now have seen the cover photo of the Banwell Parish News showing the presentation by the County Vice-Chair in recognition of 100 years since the very first formation of this Branch. I would like to see this Branch continue in years to come, but unless we attract new members to enable succession planning, it is likely that this will not be achieved.

I look forward to seeing you at our future events – more of which from our Secretary.

Penny Mottram

Chair

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From the Secretary

Having had my husband's nephew and family plus 3 labradors here over the first week-end of May I started thinking of my ancestors – not sure about the connection – but of course May marks 110 years since the Battle of Jutland WWI's largest naval clash. Between 31 May and 1 June 1916, 250 ships and 100,000 men of the Royal Navy and German High Seas Fleet engaged in the North Sea. Though losing 14 ships and 6,000 souls, the Royal Navy maintained vital control of the North Sea. My Grandfather and his brother served at Jutland at the time as did several from the same village. In one story I heard was that my great Uncle rescued a man from a sinking ship who was from the same village. It is a small world!

Enough musing - events coming up include the RBL Riders on the 21 May – which should be great fun and very interesting so please bring friends along and especially any younger generation. (See poster later in this newsletter). Non-members are also encouraged to come.

On 18 June Roy Rice will be giving a presentation on the history of shops in Banwell which again should be fascinating especially with so much change going on at the moment with all the bypass work. Again please encourage friends and neighbours to attend as I am sure there are many who live here who would like to learn more about where they live.

We are also planning to have the lunch on the 20 June so please ensure the date is in your diary. As soon as I have a menu and the venue (currently provisional but local) is confirmed I will be in touch. It would be lovely to have a good turnout of members plus guests.

We had an excellent turnout from the Army Cadets at the Poppy Supper - they have been invited to all our meetings so hopefully you will be able to meet some of them in May and June. They are affiliated to us so we are hoping we can meet up more often.

Another 'event' in the village is the Wednesday coffee and chat from 1000 to 1200 in the Scouts Hut. A member of the Committee aims to be there on the first Wednesday of the month to chat to people about the RBL. It would be an excellent opportunity for members to come and talk to the relevant committee and discuss any issues / ideas they have or just to be sociable. We plan to be there in June and July to see how it goes (I shall be there for the first Wednesday in July all being well).

I look forward to seeing you at our future events.

Gill Fawcitt
Secretary

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Poppy Collection 2026

I was able to update everyone on our final figures for Poppy Appeal 2025 at the Poppy Supper on 30 Apr 26:

Morrison's Collection: £8,278

Collection Boxes: £685

Wreaths: £276

Making a Grand Total of **£9,239**, thank you everybody!



2 Lt Kate Moran (centre) and the Worle Army Cadets

If you would be interested in taking part in Poppy Collection 2026, then please contact Tony Lyndon on 07886 292035 or e-mail to seriese8@sky.com

A Message from the Somerset Poppy Appeal Manager

I am delighted to inform you that Somerset has once again surpassed 1 Million Pounds for the last Poppy Appeal Year, with a current total of £1,007,903.14 as of the 30th April.

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This is the second-highest collection in the history of the Somerset Poppy Appeal and is only a few thousand pounds away from the highest ever collection of £1,017,256.42, which was achieved in 24/25.

Thank you all so much for your hard work and dedication to the Royal British Legion. Your efforts have made a real difference in reaching this impressive total, and I truly appreciate your commitment and hard work.

Best wishes,

Paul Bunce
County Poppy Appeal Manager

Presentation of 100-year Certificate



At the March meeting the County Vice-Chair, Liz Brown, presented the Branch with a Certificate denoting 100 years since the Branch was first opened in December 1925. Although the Branch closed in 1990 due to lack of members it was re-established on 1 Jan 2000.

Unfortunately, due to lack of active membership the Branch is once more in danger of closing. We need new members to play an active role in keeping it open and support the RBL's Vision in bringing society together to recognise, remember and support the Armed Forces community, ensuring that their unique contribution is not forgotten.

If you would like to find out more - please speak to one of the Committee members, go on line [Welcome to the Banwell Branch of The Royal British Legion - Banwell](#) or visit our Face-

book Page [Banwell Royal British Legion | Facebook](#)

Penny Mottram
Chair Banwell RBL

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RIDERS BRANCH

Branch 3542 – Established 2004



The RIDERS Branch is one of the Legion's National branches. It is open to anyone regardless of abode, nationality, branch of service, and of course, those that have not been in the services.

Our enthusiasm for motorcycles brought us together, but our desire to support those who have served is a common goal. Branch activities include taking part in rallies of all sizes, track days, bike shows and, of course, events that highlight the Royal British Legion and the work it does for our service community, both past and present, along with their dependents.

COME AND MEET MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION RIDERS BRANCH AND THEIR BIKES AND LISTEN TO THEIR STORIES

THURSDAY MAY 21ST 2026

Open to non - members

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Diary Dates

	Branch Meeting	AGM	Comments
21 May	Informal		In attendance: The RBL Riders Group
18 June	Formal		Speaker: Roy Rice on Banwell - History of its shops
20 June			Provisional lunch in June
17 September	Formal		Speaker: TBD
15 October	Formal	RBL AGM	Speaker: TBD
17 October			Dinner in October: TBD
8 November			Remembrance Sunday
11 November			Remembrance Day
19 November	Informal		Fun Event: Pre-Christmas

Contact Us

RBL Website	<u>The Royal British Legion</u>
RBL Banwell Branch	<u>Website Link</u> <u>Facebook</u>
Chair: Penny Mottram	<u>penanbill@aol.com</u>
Secretary: Gill Fawcitt	<u>gill_fawcitt04@yahoo.com</u>

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