

Oxted & District Branch Newsletter

August 2026



Introduction

Our next Branch talk, help our RBL fundraising, volunteer to help in the Poppy Appeal and some news about increases in your RBL fees (or not) are all covered here, so please read on.

Follow us on our [Facebook](#) page and keep an eye on our [website](#) for events, support services and ways to get involved.

Any feedback on the format or content of this newsletter would be gratefully received - please email me directly.

Rob Cogan

Chairman, Oxted & District Branch

Oxted.Chairman@rbl.community

Call/text: 07423 573899

Oxted Branch Talks

[Biggin on the Bump](#)

Presented by Bob Ogley, a well renowned local historian, on **Tuesday 6th October** at 8pm.

This talk will cover Bob Ogley's book, Biggin on the Bump.

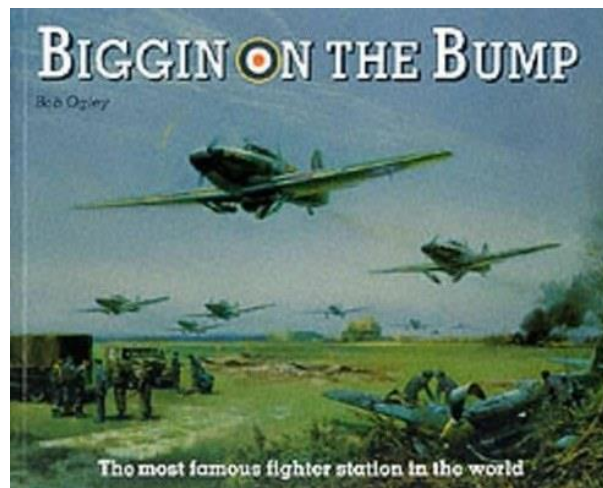
He will talk about the history of RAF Biggin Hill. He will cover the men, the women, the machines and the indomitable spirit of all those drawn into conflict from 1916 to 1945 - and

beyond, told through the story of RAF Biggin Hill, the most famous fighter station in the world.

Bob has donated the royalties from his book to the RAF Benevolent Fund.

Email oxted.events@rbl.community or contact **07423 573899** to reserve your seat in the Mil&V.

Doors open from 7.30pm for an 8pm start.



Pedal to Paris



1 - In the heatwave Ryan finishing the training session: London to Brighton.

Service Not Self — Clipless, Clueless but Committed

Starting on Thursday 4th September 2026, Ryan Williamson, our Branch Standard Bearer, will take on the RBL's Pedal to Paris challenge: a **300 mile** cycle, from London to Paris over **four days**, raising funds to support veterans in need. You can follow his progress on our Facebook page.

Having previously raised over £15,000 through endurance events including marathons, Tough Mudder and a 24-hour open-water swim, Ryan is no stranger to a challenge. Cycling, however, is a very different story.

"I could barely manage five miles before starting training, and the clipless pedals have been character-building. They're called 'clipless' but somehow still manage to attach me firmly to the bike at exactly the wrong moments!"

With Ryan's family ties to the British Army and his own service in the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps, he has seen first-hand the impact the RBL can have on veterans, serving personnel, and their families.

He is aiming to raise £2,500. Every donation, no matter the size, is greatly appreciated, so please donate if you can.

<https://royalbritishlegion.enthuse.com/pf/ryan-williamson>

Thank you.

Follow Ryan's progress on our [Facebook](#) page.

Poppy Appeal - Please Help Us

Please help us in this year's Poppy Appeal.

Last year we did unbelievably well; raising a record-breaking total of £35,000 with our Oxted Morrisons finishing as the top fundraising Morrisons store in the UK.

This year, we would like to do better still and are asking for your help.

Poppy Appeal 2026 runs from Thursday 22nd October through to Remembrance Sunday, 8th November.

We are determined to make sure Oxted stays at the top of the national charts again this year, and we need more volunteers.

If you can spare a little time to help us, email oxted.events@rbl.community or phone **07423 573899**.

Any amount of time that you can spare, even if only a couple of hours, will make a difference.



RBL Fees

RBL Annual Fee.

At the RBL's Annual Conference 2024, it was agreed that the annual RBL membership fee would increase incrementally by £2 per year until 2028.

Therefore, this year, from Thursday 4th September 2026, it will be increasing by £2 from £22 to £24 per year.

It will reach £28 from 4th September 2028, at which point it will remain at that level until such time that the Annual Conference passes a motion for further increases.

Branch Fee.

The Branch currently does **not** charge members a branch fee and, currently, has no intent to charge you a branch fee.

We incur approximately £800-£1,000 costs per year to administer ourselves; covering printing and stationary, advertising, ceremonial costs, Branch Community Support costs, plus any minor purchases of equipment.

We could choose to pass this cost onto you, our members, which would equate to £2 per member per year in addition to your annual RBL fee of £24.

Your Branch Committee has decided, noting the cost pressures of the RBL annual fee increase, not to charge you a Branch Fee to cover our administration costs. For the time being, we will continue to take this money from our Branch Property Trust Fund.

Dates for your Diary

[Branch AGM](#) - Sunday 22 November 2026, at 11.00 a.m

[Military & Veterans Meet Up](#) - first Wednesday of the month, 7.30pm

Join us for friendly beers, banter and a few dits at our monthly Military Meet Up!

Next one is on Wednesday 7th October in the Mil&V Veterans Hub, 42 Church Lane, Oxted RH8 9LB.

[Veterans' Breakfast Club](#) - third Tuesday of the month, 10.30am

Friendship and fantastic fry-ups at our monthly Veterans Breakfast Club!

Next one is on Tuesday 15th September July at the Skyline Café, 35 Station Rd East, Oxted RH8 0BD.

For our last one, in August, Skyline Cafe was closed. So, we went on a road trip to RAF Biggin Hill.

See our Facebook page for the full report.

<https://www.facebook.com/Oxted & District Branch>

