



Website <https://branches.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/rushden/>

RUSHDEN BRANCH - NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2024

RENEWAL RBL BRANCH MEMBERSHIP

Did you know you can easily renew your membership by having your credit/debit card and membership card ready and simply dial **0800 307 7773**? It saves all the hassle of sending in a cheque or going online.

If you prefer, you can renew your membership and update your personal details by going online; it is a secure Self Service Portal available 24/7 and also enables you to choose or update the way you wish to be contacted.

To set up your account go to [registration \(britishlegion.org.uk\)](https://registration.britishlegion.org.uk)

REMEMBERING AFGHANISTAN

The RBL will remember the 10th anniversary of the end of combat operations by British Armed Forces in Afghanistan (Operation HERRICK) with a ceremony at the National Memorial Arboretum on Saturday 26th October 2024. The ceremony is open to those who served in Afghanistan and their families. Registration closes on 7th October or sooner if capacity is reached. To attend complete the [registration form](#). If you have any questions, contact us at remembranceevents@britishlegion.org.uk

LONDON POPPY DAY 2024

Taking place on Thursday, October 31st, London Poppy Day is the flagship fundraising event for RBL's annual Poppy Appeal. This one-day street collection from 7am - 7pm, mobilises more than 1,000 uniformed personnel from the Royal Navy, British Army, and Royal Air Force, plus 1,000 veterans, volunteers, and supporters - many of whom are dedicated RBL members. This is an exciting and unique opportunity to be part of one of the largest fundraising collections of its kind, as well as for communities to engage with uniformed personnel. The presence and efforts of these volunteers are crucial in ensuring the success of the event, allowing for significant fundraising that directly benefits those who have served, and their loved ones.

To get involved, please register at rbl.org.uk/londonpoppyday2024. Volunteers will be provided with a food voucher if volunteering for the day, as well as travel passes for the day before, the day of and the day after London Poppy Day across the National Rail network, and on the day across the TfL network.

**RBL MEMBERSHIP MEET UPS AT BLETCHLEY RBL CLUB
MELROSE AVENUE, BLETCHLEY, MILTON KEYNES, MK3 6PU:
SATURDAY 7 DECEMBER 2024**

RBL Membership Meet Ups are returning, and this year the RBL will be holding one that covers the Central Branches, which includes Northamptonshire.

The Meet Ups are a fantastic opportunity for members from different branches in the region to connect, share best practices, and work together to build a stronger, more engaged RBL membership community. This is also an ideal opportunity for members to get a better understanding of how the RBL works, especially if you are considering joining the Committee and/or becoming a Branch Officer.

The day will feature informal workshops and forums, a mini exhibition and plenty of opportunities to engage with both staff and fellow members. Light refreshments will be provided.

If any Member would like to attend, please register using the link below by **Thursday 28th November 2024**. The registration will ask two questions that some members may not know; these relate to Question numbers 10 and 11 namely:

Question 10: Who is your Membership Engagement Officer (MEO)?

Answer 10: Lebo Nyoni

Question 11: Who is your Membership Engagement Manager (MEM)?

Answer 11: Chris Jones

Here is the link:

[Membership Meet Ups CENTRAL Bletchley RBL Club Saturday 7 December 2024 Registration \(office.com\)](#)

More information will follow once you have registered, but nearer the time. Branch Chairman Jake Baker has registered to attend and will be happy to take 2 or 3 members with him. Please bring your RBL membership card with you on the day.

BRANCH CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

This will be our first Branch Social since the membership voted to have a Social Evening on Branch Monthly Meeting Nights in March, June, September and December instead of a formal meeting. What better way than to start with a Christmas Social! It starts at The Athletic Club at 6pm and Members are encouraged to bring food to share with each other; so that we don't end up bringing the same food, Committee Member Sally Morton asks for those intending to bring food to contact her **at least two or three days beforehand on 07519 605250**.

There will be a Quiz laid on and a Big Raffle. Finally, more raffle prizes are needed, so if any member can bring along prizes, the organisers (Committee Members Sally Morton & Heather Philip) would really appreciate it.

DO YOU NEED ANY HELP, OR DO YOU KNOW A VETERAN OR RBL MEMBER WHO NEEDS HELP? IF SO, PLEASE CALL OUR BRANCH COMMUNITY CO-ORDINATOR PETER ARMSTRONG ON 07498 243683. REMEMBER, THE RBL IS HERE FOR YOU. IF HE CAN'T HELP, HE'LL GET YOU HELP.

WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS?

First Thursday of every month – 10am to 12.30pm – Friendship Group meet at The Athletic Club, Newton Road, Rushden. Pop along for a cuppa and a chat any time in between 10am and 12.30pm. The next meet is now on **3rd October**.

3rd October – 10am - Alfred Lord Tennyson School Remembrance & Memorial Day. Short ceremony to be held in memory of 7 children killed by a German bomb on 3rd October 1940. The entrance to the Memorial Garden is on College Street, opposite the Royal Mail Sorting Office. List of attendees closed on 30th September for school security and health and safety reasons.

Second Monday of Every October - 14th October – 7.30pm start. Branch Annual General Meeting – followed by a 75-minute presentation called *Grandad's War* by Edward Barnes. Calling notice and Branch Nomination Forms have been sent to every Branch Member under separate cover.

19th October – Royal Naval Association Pickle Night at the Windmill Club to celebrate Trafalgar Day. Comedian & Singer with Buffet. £5 a ticket. List of attendees is now closed. Point of contact - Terry Perkins on **07518 738512** or email him at Lperkins18@hotmail.co.uk

Fourth Tuesday of Every Month (22nd October) – The Community Social & Craft Group meets at the Rushden Athletic Club on Newton Road between 1pm and 3pm. RAFA Members Free. Guests £3/entry or £20 per year. This is open to any RBL Rushden Branch Member. For more information contact Carol on **07922 141589** or treasurer@rafarushden.org.uk

25th October – Presentation of items and cheque to RBL Rushden Branch from Happy Feet Line Dancing Club Charity Event in support of RBL Rushden Branch, featuring Kay D. To be held at Higham Ferrers Working Men's Club from 7.30pm to 11pm. Bar & Disco. Tickets £8. Available at AGM – please bring the exact amount with you.

Every Wednesday & Saturday Morning – 9am start: Northants Veterans Breakfast Club dine at The Needle and Awl. All Veterans are welcome – Veterans' Families are invited to join on the last Saturday of each month (**26th October**).

26th October - Town Mayor's Civic Italian Night at Pizzeria Venezia, Rushden – see poster on next page below.

26th October to 10th November – Remembrancetide – Poppy Selling Fortnight. If members, their family or friends wish to help during the Poppy Appeal fortnight, then please contact Poppy Appeal Organiser, Ruth Miller via her email at poppyappealrushden@gmail.com Remember, anyone can help, RBL member or not.

6th November – Garden of Remembrance Service for Schools at Rushden War Memorial starting at 10.45am. Branch Members and the public are welcome.

10th November – Remembrance Sunday Parade & Service at Rushden War Memorial. Parade forms up outside Rushden Hall, Rushden Hall Park at 10.30am.

11th November – Armistice Day – Rushden War Memorial & Rushden Academy; further details to follow in the November Newsletter.

Second Monday of Every Month – 7.30pm start. Branch Monthly Meeting at the Athletic Club. The next meeting is on **11th November** followed by a talk from Northampton General Hospital Welfare Officer Anna Ferreira-Gomes called “*The Defence Medical Welfare Service and How it Can Help You*” concluded by Sue Sims, a Community Support Worker from Blind Veterans UK.

7th December – Membership Meet Up - see page 2 above for more details.



RBL RUSHDEN BRANCH CHRISTMAS DINNER

Yes, it's weeks away, but the Mayor of Rushden and his Consort wife, Councillors David and Melanie Coleman have accepted our invitation to be our guests at our Xmas Dinner on **Tuesday 10th December**. The list for names can be added at our next meeting. Cost will be between £10 and £15, depending on donations which we hope will be forthcoming.

For the members who cannot attend the Branch or Coffee Morning Meeting, please can you let Peter Armstrong know if you are coming to the Xmas meal by end of October, and money at the beginning of November. Call him on **07498 243683**



Voice helps you to cope, recover and thrive after crime. Under the Victims Code of Practice, victims and witnesses of crime are entitled to access support.

For anyone living in Northamptonshire, Voice provides free support that's tailored to your needs. Voice also offers specialist [domestic abuse](#), [children and young people](#), [trauma on the roads](#) and [restorative justice services](#).

[Call 0300 303 1965](tel:03003031965) or email us at info@voicenorthants.org

www.voicenorthants.org

Warwick House, Billing Road, Cliftonville, Northampton, NN1 5BE

A BIT OF HUMOUR

I hate to do this about a local business, but I feel you deserve to know.

I ordered a Chinese takeaway from a local place (I won't name them yet) and I have just been to pick it up ... and as I was driving home, I heard the bags rustling and moving!!! I thought what the heck is that. Has something got in the bag? I thought I could see a little pair of eyes peering out.

I was driving so I leaned forward, picked up the bag, put it on the passenger seat and there it was again, more rustling and little eyes looking out behind the prawn crackers!

I thought it's got to be a rat or a mouse or something, so I carefully pulled the bag down ... And there it was A Peeking Duck!!!



Eggs are fantastic for a fitness diet. If you don't like the taste, just add cocoa, flour, sugar, butter, baking powder, and cook at 350 for 30 minutes.



A truck loaded with thousands of copies of Roget's Thesaurus crashed yesterday losing its entire load. Witnesses were stunned, startled, aghast, taken aback, stupefied, confused, shocked, rattled, paralyzed, dazed, bewildered, mixed up, surprised, awed, dumbfounded, nonplussed, flabbergasted, astounded, amazed, confounded, astonished, overwhelmed, horrified, numbed, speechless, and perplexed.

I went in a pub to use their Wi-Fi. I asked the bar staff "What is your Wi-Fi password?" and he replied, "You have to buy a drink first." So, I bought a drink and asked again "Please, what is your Wi-Fi password?" and he replied, "I just told you, you have to buy a drink first all in lower case."

RELAUNCH OF STREET WATCH

The Northamptonshire Police Force is relaunching its countywide Street Watch programme and is inviting local people to come together as volunteers to contribute to community safety and crime prevention in their neighbourhood.

Street Watch enables local people to take an active role in keeping their community safe, by patrolling their local area as part of an organised scheme, identifying potential issues, and engaging with local residents, encouraging them to report things like antisocial behaviour, vandalism and suspicious behaviour to the police.

Street Watch volunteers are supported by a coordinator who liaises with team members and their local neighbourhood policing team, to share information and help progress any initiatives that can help prevent crime and improve safety in their local area.

Volunteers are asked to spend a minimum of two hours a month, at times that suit them, patrolling with other scheme members in their local area.

Chief Inspector Dave Wakeman, who is coordinating the relaunch of the Street Watch in Northamptonshire, explained more about the programme. He said: *"Street Watch is based on a very simple idea – it's about going for a walk with your neighbours, getting to know people in the area, being a visible presence to help deter crime and anti-social behaviour and generally building up a greater sense of community spirit.*

We already have nine schemes established across the county, with 29 volunteers carrying out patrols each month in their local area.

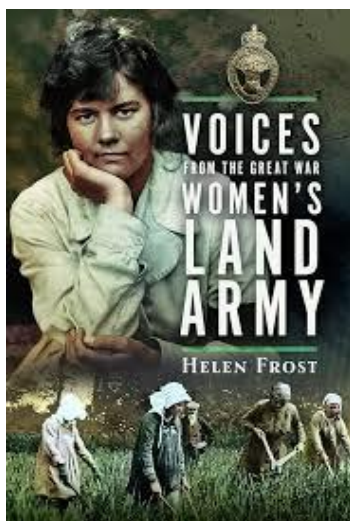
By relaunching the Northamptonshire Street Watch programme, and putting steps in place to build stronger links and more regular contact between individual schemes and their local neighbourhood policing team, we hope to build a strong network of volunteers across the county, to help support safer communities.

Each scheme is led by a coordinator – a volunteer who will lead the team and liaise with their neighbourhood officers to get information about things to look out for, or areas to focus on, and also to be able to provide feedback from their patrols.

We ask for a commitment of at least two hours a month, but volunteers can do as much as they like. All we ask is that there are at least two people on each walk for safety, and we provide a high visibility jacket with "Street Watch" on it, so people know they are part of an organised group.

Volunteers organise their own walks, when and where they want to – and can even walk their dog at the same time! It really is up to the group themselves how much or little they do. Street Watch is for the community, by the community, but our neighbourhood teams will be there to provide as much support as possible."

Anyone who would like to get involved, or set up a Street Watch scheme in their area, can find out more at northants.police.uk/streetwatch or email at citizensinpolicing@northants.police.uk



VOICES FROM THE GREAT WAR WOMEN'S LAND ARMY BY HELEN FROST

We have been fortunate to have Helen Frost talk to us earlier this year about the women's Land Army during WW1 and in August's Newsletter, we mentioned details about this book Helen has written and where you can order it from.

Helen is our Speaker in January, and will be talking about *"Keeping Faith at the Front During WW1."*

Picture attributed to the Northampton Chronicle

This book highlights a complete and comprehensive list of all 56 recipients of the Distinguished Service Bar or Medal, widely known as the 'Land Girl VC', which was the highest honour that could be bestowed on a Great War Land Girl. A description of how each woman came to be awarded it is also included.

A Roll of Honour which lists as many names as it has been possible to discover, (along with any other details found) of women who lost their lives serving in a land organisation, or the Women's Land Army, Women's Forage Corps or Forestry/Timber Cutting section during the Great War.

There is a whole chapter on Land Girls who committed crime, or who were victims of crime.

A selection of previously unseen, unpublished photographs from a personal collection taken by an Oxford student, who became a 'temporary' Land Girl during her University vacation during the summer of 1916.

Use of previously unpublished primary sources from various archives, provide a genuine sense of how Land Girls attempted their war work, and how they integrated with personnel from land organisations, farmers and villagers. Evidence is included of how they revitalised rural communities with their breezy, imaginative and proactive outlook on life.

Events included in the book depict Land Girls in unusual locations and situations, (places that are not associated with land work). These events really showcase every facet of a Land Girl's life, and will surprise readers of the book with their quirkiness!

Great War Land Girls were all very different individuals - they radiated vitality, resolve and determination. In this book, their sense of fun and infectious humour shines through the myriads of humorous stories and poems penned whilst doing their National Service. Amidst the troubling times they worked through, their ability to 'stick it if it kills' no matter what, earned them a richly-deserved respect.

Using previously unpublished photographs from personal collections that intimately depict the ups and downs of their daily lives, this book attempts to immerse readers in the quirky and unusual world of the Great War Land Girl, and discovers exactly how they interacted, lived together, socialised, relaxed, fell in love, went off the rails and got through difficult times.

The minutiae of life as a recruit in land organisations, (established early in the war) and later in the Women's Land Army, is vividly brought back to life through previously untold accounts. Ultimately, their legacy tells of unwavering devotion to duty and to the country they held dear.

Land Girls broke new ground and turned their hand to any task that was asked of them, with an inextinguishable wartime spirit. The attitudes and approaches they showed to their work, when faced with such adversity, remain inspirational more than a century later.

Their forgotten testimonies are shared in this book. They fizz off the page as a true record of 'I was there.'

About the Author: Helen Frost has a background in teaching and lecturing in English. She is a Great War historian and researcher, with a particular fascination about the lives of Land Girls during the Great War. She has had articles published in *Stand To*, the journal of the Western Front Association, and other publications. She has a deep love of the countryside, and of old traditions and customs passed down the generations, and is passionate about remembering the legacy left behind by those that served.

BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL TATTOO – 9TH FEBRUARY 2025

R B Travel are organising this event, and tickets cost £55.25 per adult (£53.50 for seniors). You can book by telephoning **01536 791066** or visiting the Post Office in Rushden, or by emailing enquiries@rbtravel.co.uk. There are 18 seats still available; if members are interested in going as a group, then please call or contact Jake on **07525 441267** or email him to rushden.chairman@rbl.community

WHO'S WHO AND HOW YOU CAN CONTACT THEM?

President - David Hawker: via rushden.secretary@rbl.community
Chairman/Media Rep: Jake Baker rushden.chairman@rbl.community **07525 441267**
Vice Chairman – Paul McKay: rushden.vicechairman@rbl.community
Secretary – Lynne Baker: rushden.secretary@rbl.community
Treasurer – Janet Flowers: rushden.treasurer@rbl.community
Committee Member – Heather Phillip: via rushden.secretary@rbl.community
Committee Member – Sally Morton: via rushden.secretary@rbl.community
Committee Member – Steve Miller: via rushden.secretary@rbl.community
BCC & BCS Rep – Peter Armstrong: rushden.bcs@rbl.community or **07498 243683**
Poppy Appeal Organiser – Ruth Miller: poppyappealrushden@gmail.com
Branch Standard Bearer - Mark Taberner-Stokes: via rushden.secretary@rbl.community

DEPARTURE OF BRANCH PADRE – REV DR LINNET SMITH

At last month's Branch Meeting, members were informed that our Branch Padre, Rev Linnet Smith, is to resign on 30th September 2024, so she may work in Ethiopia and later move nearer her sister in Market Harborough. We were all sorry to learn she is leaving, having been our Padre since June 2021 and served our Branch so well.

Thanks to members present creating a very generous collection, the Committee was able to buy Linnet a vital piece of communications equipment, that can be used anywhere and where climate conditions may be challenging. It is called a GuardianPro Emergency Hub (see image below), an ultimate lifeline in an emergency, as well as for day-to-day use. Its purpose is for the user to:

Stay Informed, Stay Safe: Real-time Nationwide AM/FM/NOAA Alerts

Always Have Power: Solar panel, Battery/hand crank - portable power bank

Light Up Any Emergency: LED Light & SOS

Charge On-the-Go: USB & USB-C ports for all devices.



Email from Rev Linnet Smith

Dear Jake and Lynne,
Please pass my thanks on to the members of the RBL Rushden Branch for the lovely and thoughtful gift. It has been a privilege to work with the Legion over the past few years and I wish you all the best in the future.

Editor's Note: We wish Linnet well in all her future endeavours, wherever she may be.