



ROYAL  
BRITISH  
LEGION



RUSHDEN

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

## RBL RUSHDEN BRANCH NEWSLETTER FOR JULY 2025

### FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE 2025

Ballot registration for the Festival of Remembrance 2025 has now closed; members who have registered should now note the following:

- **Ballot starts:** Wednesday 9th July 2025
- **Successful members notified from:** Thursday 10th July 2025
- **Payment links sent from:** Thursday 10th July 2025
- **Payment deadline:** seven days from the date the payment link is received
- **Tickets distributed from:** Tuesday 28th October 2025



### DAY TRIP TO THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM ON VJ DAY

There is to be an RBL Day Trip to the National Memorial Arboretum on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2025 – Victory over Japan Day. The cost is confirmed at £20 per RBL Rushden Branch member and £25 for non-members. There are three remaining seats on the 16-seater minibus. If you wish to attend please contact Jake Baker on **07525 441267**; first come first serve!



### RBL WELFARE AND SUPPORT SERVICES

**DO YOU NEED ANY HELP, OR DO YOU KNOW A VETERAN OR RBL MEMBER WHO NEEDS HELP? IF SO, PLEASE CALL OUR BRANCH COMMUNITY COORDINATOR, PETER ARMSTRONG ON **07498 243683**. REMEMBER, THE RBL IS HERE FOR YOU. IF HE CAN'T HELP, HE'LL GET YOU HELP. PLEASE BEAR IN MIND THAT EVERY SITUATION IS DIFFERENT.**

## WHAT'S ON DURING JULY AND AUGUST 2025?

12<sup>th</sup> July – Party in the Park at Rushden Hall Park

25<sup>th</sup> July – Bilton Court Care Home – Veterans Coffee Morning – More details to follow

26<sup>th</sup> July – Northants Veterans Breakfast Club BBQ at the Athletic Club from 1pm

27<sup>th</sup> July – Korean War Commemorations – more info to follow

31<sup>st</sup> July – Anniversary of the end of Op BANNER (Northern Ireland)

3<sup>rd</sup> August – Rushden Classic Car Show at Rushden Hall Park from 11am to 4pm

9<sup>th</sup> August – Bilton Court Summer Fete – Veterans Welcome – more details to follow

13<sup>th</sup> August – 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Britain – more details to follow

15<sup>th</sup> August – 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Victory Japan (VJ) Day – more details to follow

**First Thursday of every month** – 10am to 12.30pm – **Friends of the Legion** meet at The Athletic Club, Newton Road, Rushden. Pop along for a cuppa and a chat any time between 10am and 12.30pm. The next meets are 3<sup>rd</sup> July & 7<sup>th</sup> August.

**Second Monday of every month** – 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025 – 7.30pm start. **Branch Monthly Meeting** at the Athletic Club followed by Steve Miller & Jake Baker talking about their “*D-Day 80 Experience in 2024 on Normandy Beaches,*” and 11<sup>th</sup> August, at the Athletic Club commencing at 7.30pm followed by a talk from Kevin Varty called “*Dancing Bust to Bust: Joyce Grenfell’s Life and Music.*”

**Second Thursday of every month** - 10<sup>th</sup> July 2025 - 9am start - **NGH Breakfast Club** at Northampton General Hospital, Cliftonville, Northampton, NN1 5BD. **Eat Street** is the hospital restaurant on the main corridor through the hospital opposite the Chapel. The Breakfast Club is open to **all veterans (staff, patients and public)**. Attendees to purchase their own breakfast and drinks. Next **NGH Breakfast Club** meet is on 14<sup>th</sup> August.

**Last Friday of every month** – 25<sup>th</sup> July 2025 – 9am start – **KGH Breakfast Club** at Kettering General Hospital, Rothwell Road, Kettering, NN16 8UZ. The Basement Brassiere is located on the lower ground floor of the main hospital building. The Breakfast Club is open to **all veterans (staff, patients and public)**. Attendees to purchase their own breakfast and drinks. Next **KGH Breakfast Club** meets on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2025.

**Every Wednesday & Saturday Morning** – 9am start: Northants Breakfast Club (**NBC**) dine at The Needle and Awl. All Veterans are welcome. Families are invited to join on the last Saturday of each month. The next two meet on 26<sup>th</sup> July & 30<sup>th</sup> August 2025.

**Fourth Tuesday of every month – 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2025.** 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 Members. For more information contact Carol on **07922 141589** or [treasurer@rafarushden.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@rafarushden.org.uk) Next meet is on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2025.

## **PSST! JUST A LITTLE BIT OF HUMOUR?**

I got stopped by a policeman last night. The officer asked me:” Do you have a police record?” I replied: “Yes, Walking on the Moon from 1979.”



As I get older, all I need in life is a Specsavers, a Boots and a Greggs...



## **WHO'S WHO IN OUR BRANCH?**

President - David Hawker: via [rushden.secretary@rbl.community](mailto:rushden.secretary@rbl.community)

Chairman/Media Rep: Jake Baker [rushden.chairman@rbl.community](mailto:rushden.chairman@rbl.community) **07525 441267**

Vice Chairman – Paul McKay: [rushden.vicechairman@rbl.community](mailto:rushden.vicechairman@rbl.community)

Secretary – Lynne Baker: [rushden.secretary@rbl.community](mailto:rushden.secretary@rbl.community)

Treasurer – Janet Flowers: [rushden.treasurer@rbl.community](mailto:rushden.treasurer@rbl.community)

Committee Member – Heather Phillip: via [rushden.secretary@rbl.community](mailto:rushden.secretary@rbl.community)

Committee Member – Sally Morton: via [rushden.secretary@rbl.community](mailto:rushden.secretary@rbl.community)

Committee Member – Steve Miller: via [rushden.secretary@rbl.community](mailto:rushden.secretary@rbl.community)

Committee Member – Graham Chambers: via [rushden.secretary@rbl.community](mailto:rushden.secretary@rbl.community)

Branch Padre – Pauline Cook: [richardpaulinec@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:richardpaulinec@yahoo.co.uk) **07871 923337**

Asst Branch Padre – Richard Cook: [richardpaulinec@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:richardpaulinec@yahoo.co.uk) **07871 923337**

BCS Rep/BCC Rep/ – Peter Armstrong: [rushden.bcc1@rbl.community](mailto:rushden.bcc1@rbl.community) or **07498 243683**

**BCS & BCC – Paul McKay:** [rushden.bcc2@rbl.community](mailto:rushden.bcc2@rbl.community)

Poppy Appeal Organiser – Ruth Miller: [poppyappealrushden@gmail.com](mailto:poppyappealrushden@gmail.com)

Standard Bearer - Mark Taberner-Stokes: via [rushden.secretary@rbl.community](mailto:rushden.secretary@rbl.community)

## CONGRATULATIONS TO VICE CHAIR PAUL MCKAY

Members will note BCS (Branch Community Supporter) & BCC (Branch Community Coordinator) highlighted in red indicates Branch Vice Chairman Paul McKay has passed all the requirements to be qualified as both a BCS & BCC. Congratulations are conveyed to him for this achievement, which allows him to go to hospitals, homes, and private homes to check the welfare and well-being of members, make assessments, etc. He has been issued an ID Card to present when required, and is one of only a handful of members qualified in the country. We are a very lucky branch indeed!

## FORMER MAYOR'S DONATION TO BRANCH FUNDS

Just before the recent RBL Rushden Branch Committee were about to meet, former Mayor of Rushden, Councillor David Coleman presented us with a lovely cheque to the wonderful tune of £1,500, which was collected during his tenure as Mayor. RBL Rushden Branch was fortunate to be one of his three chosen charities.

We are very grateful for this kind donation which Councillor Coleman has asked goes into our Branch Funds, to help us to run the Branch. It will come very useful to help to pay for things like printing newsletters, postage, pitch fees for community events, RBL Trailer maintenance and really a whole gamut of things. Thank you, Councillor Coleman, and all who donated.



## RBL NORTHANTS VJ 80 COMMEMORATION 16TH AUGUST 2025

The Branch has been invited to send two Members plus our Standard Bearer to attend a VJ 80 Commemorative Service, which is taking place on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August, starting at 11am in the Holy Sepulchre Church, Church Street, Northampton NN1 3NL. Dress will be formal with medals. The Lord Lieutenant and civic and military dignitaries have also been invited.

If any member is interested, please email Branch Secretary Lynne Baker by 27<sup>th</sup> July 2025 the latest. Her email address is [rushden.secretary@rbl.community](mailto:rushden.secretary@rbl.community)

## POST 45 MEMORIAL SERVICE



A Post-1945 Memorial service is a ceremony held to commemorate those who have served in conflicts and peacekeeping missions since the end of World War II. They are held at various locations, and for this region the Post 45 Ceremony was held at Northampton's Towcester Road's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery. Branch Standard Bearer Mark Taberner-Stokes attended on 29<sup>th</sup> June and is pictured here (second from the right) with others county Standard Bearers.

## RUSHDEN ARMED FORCES DAY 25 AND DRUMHEAD SERVICE IN PICTURES



All ready to go. Mobility Scooter right is David Youngs with Eddie Hammond and the Vintage Military Vehicles about to leave Alfred Lord Tennyson School Playground.



Preparing for the off. On his motorbike and checking his rear-view mirror is former RBL Rushden Branch Chairman Paul Mills, then Eddie Hammond wearing the paratrooper's beret and suited for the occasion former subaltern David Youngs. The Air Cadets Band is receiving orders.



The Air Cadet Band leads the parade.



Rushden Sea Cadets are off!



...followed by the Army Cadet Force.....



..... and the Air Cadets



Branch President David Hawker leads the Veterans with Branch Members Steve Miller and Mike Read (left mobility scooter)



Fantastic view of these very old vintage vehicles the dignitaries awaiting the parade



A great way to show off all three services



Mayor ready for take – off!



Peter Cook arrives at the Goods Shed and the Drums and Standard Party are at ease.



David Hawker watches proceedings



Parade Comd Flt Lt Colin Harmer checks



Saluting Officer Air Vice Marshal Chris Luck  
CB MBE DL had a great chat with Royal Navy WW2 Veteran  
Peter Cook who, during D-Day patrolled the Irish Sea hunting U-boats.

**RBL HELPLINE – 0808 802 8080 - CALL 8am to 8pm 7 DAYS A WEEK**