

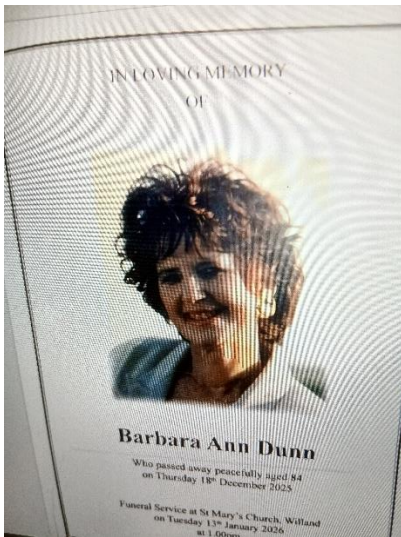


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Membership helpline 0800 3077 773

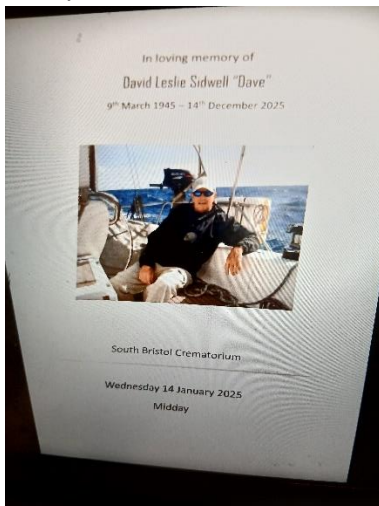
**Somerset RBL County Bulletin: 14th January 2026 No: 252**  
**To: All Somerset RBL Branches**

Dear All

It was my mother in law's funeral yesterday, a big thank you to John & Judy Gallop for coming along.



Today it was Dave Sidwell's funeral, and there was a great RBL turnout there:



Please do continue to send me any articles, stories, or other things for the Bulletins, which come out usually every Friday.

I wish you all the best and please all take care of yourselves.

Best wishes Kate



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***“Be yourself; everyone else is already taken.”***

***— Oscar Wilde***

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### **Message from the County Recruiting Officer**

I was asked at the county conference to support you through the weekly bulletins in your drive regarding recruitment for new members. I know so many of you are doing so well in this area so I apologise if I am saying things you already know.

Effective recruitment ideas focus on strong branding, targeted campaigns including digital outreach on social media, for example, which showcases the organisations goals and aspirations. Targeted digital campaigns should use specific keywords or phrases in social media posts. For example: support in the community, friendship and welcoming for all. If you do not engage in social media as a branch, perhaps consider for example, creating a Facebook page or group to appeal to a wider local audience.

If I can help in anyway do please get in touch. Finally huge congratulations to Bridgwater branch, thirty new members last year is an amazing achievement. A well deserved award of the Mitford-Slade trophy for the best recruitment for a branch.

Kindest

Andy Ransom

County Recruiting Officer

Somerset RBL

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Somerset County Conference

Somerset County Royal British Legion Conference took place in Taunton on Sunday, 11th January.

It turned out to be an example of Freemasons working in the community.

The Conference was supported by three members of the Somerset Military Lodge, No 10021.

Bro Klaus Galeitzke, Bridgwater Branch, W.Bro Roger Evans, Frome Branch and W.Bro Garry Hawkes, Weston-super-Mare Branch.

As well as being active members of Somerset Military Lodge, all are very actively involved in Legion life and supporting the Armed Forces and Veteran Community.

W.Bro. Roger, as well as being an active member of the Frome branch, has for many years organised and taken Command of the Remembrance Parades in Bath.

Bro Klaus and W.Bro Garry both received awards from Somerset County RBL at the conference.

Ray, Margaret, Klaus and team at Bridgwater Branch received their award for increasing Branch Membership and their successful Touchpoint Centre. The Deputy Lord Lieutenant presented Garry with a certificate of recognition for his work as Branch Parade Marshal, organising and commanding Weston Armed Forces Days and Remembrance Services & Parades.

A good conference was had by all, and it was encouraging to see Somerset Masons at the heart of their Community.



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If you are serving in the Regular or Reserve Forces, a Veteran, serving or former Adult Cadet Forces Volunteer, and you enjoy good banter, Somerset Military Lodge may appeal to you.

We meet 4 times a year at Temples and Military Establishments all over the Province and the UK.

Our next meeting will take place on 7th February at the Royal Air Force College Cranwell.

If you fancy joining Somerset Military Lodge, please contact Klaus, and he will put you in touch with our secretary.



Kind regards

Klaus

[Email:klausgaleitzke@gmail.com](mailto:klausgaleitzke@gmail.com)

We have the Battle Back Centre - Recovery through Comedy group visiting Whitchurch and Pensford to perform on Saturday 7th February'26. 6 recovering service personnel will be performing. Tickets Cost £5.





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For tickets go to -

Email: [WhitchurchPensford.vicechairman@rbl.community](mailto:WhitchurchPensford.vicechairman@rbl.community)

Or call on 07986939455

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### **Michael Homer's Visit**

On 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026, Michael Homer traveled from Southampton to present a plaque to the Mayor of Weston super Mare. He caught the 6am train and was with us by 11am.

Michael is now the Chairman of the National Servicemen Alliance which was endorsed by Princess Anne. He has visited quite a few branches to present a plaque or certificate to the branches and or the Area offices.

We also had a National Service Veteran attending Roy Dare with his family. It was good to hear some of his stories and see photos he had brought with him.

If there are any branches who would like to receive the certificate Michael can oblige by sending certificates on.

I would also like to say a big thank you to the Mayor, our Area Chair, Mike Allison, Jerry Sandford for presenting the standard and Robin Potter for taking part. The biggest thank you to Michael Homer for travelling so far to present the plaque. A good day had by all.







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Sue Packham, WSM Branch Secretary



**Dedicated services for the Armed Forces community**

<b>OpCOURAGE</b> Point of access for Veterans and Reservists needing mental health support.	North of England Call 0300 373 3332 or Email <a href="mailto:OpCourageNORTH@cntw.nhs.uk">OpCourageNORTH@cntw.nhs.uk</a>
	The Midlands Call 0300 323 0137 or Email <a href="mailto:mevs.mhm@nhs.net">mevs.mhm@nhs.net</a>
	The East of England Call 0300 034 9991 or Email <a href="mailto:mevs.mhm@nhs.net">mevs.mhm@nhs.net</a>
	London Call 020 3317 6818 or Email <a href="mailto:veteransservice@candi.nhs.uk">veteransservice@candi.nhs.uk</a>
	South East England Call 0300 365 2000 (opt 4) or Email <a href="mailto:gateway@berkshire.nhs.uk">gateway@berkshire.nhs.uk</a>
	South West England Call 0300 034 9986 or Email <a href="mailto:mevs.mhm@nhs.net">mevs.mhm@nhs.net</a>
<b>OpRESTORE</b> For Veterans who have a Service related physical condition that needs treatment.	GP Referral Only <a href="mailto:Imperial.oprestore@nhs.net">Imperial.oprestore@nhs.net</a>
<b>OpNOVA</b> Support for Veterans in contact with the Justice system	Tel: 0800 917 7299 <a href="mailto:opnova@forcesemployment.org.uk">opnova@forcesemployment.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.forcesemployment.org.uk/opnova">www.forcesemployment.org.uk/opnova</a>
<b>OpCOMMUNITY</b> Support for the Armed Forces community as a whole.	Tel: 01273 403693 <a href="mailto:afn.admin@nhs.net">afn.admin@nhs.net</a> <a href="http://www.armedforcesnetwork.org/armed-forces-community/families/single-point-of-contact/">www.armedforcesnetwork.org/armed-forces-community/families/single-point-of-contact/</a>
<b>OpSTERLING</b> Support for older LGBT+ veterans, service personnel and their families	Online form for requesting support <a href="https://www.fightingwithpride.org.uk/contact-fwp-for-age-uk-referral-support/">https://www.fightingwithpride.org.uk/contact-fwp-for-age-uk-referral-support/</a>
<b>OpFORTITUDE</b> A referral pathway into veteran supported housing	0800 952 0774 Online referrals via <a href="https://riv.org.uk/opfortitude">https://riv.org.uk/opfortitude</a>
<b>OpPROSPER</b> Employment help or advice for veterans	0121 262 3058 <a href="https://www.forcesemployment.org.uk/programmes/op-prosper/">https://www.forcesemployment.org.uk/programmes/op-prosper/</a>



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**REMINDER - Nominations now open for the Sir Clive Johnstone award**

**Recognising commitment to unity in society and service**

Launched in memory of Sir Clive Johnstone (National President May 2023-May 2024), this award celebrates demonstrations of unity – those who seek to create, repair or improve it. Sir Clive passionately promoted unity within the Royal British Legion and how it makes us stronger than the sum of our parts.

The award is open to individuals, groups, or teams, and we welcome nominations from colleagues, members, and volunteers. It really does celebrate all that is best about RBL.

In its inaugural year, the Sir Clive Johnstone award was given to Lieutenant Commander Steve Cass for his commitment to RBL, helping veterans and championing the Armed Forces community.

Please have a think about who might deserve this award and why and submit your nomination by 5pm Friday 13th February 2026.

The winner will be announced at Annual Conference 2026. We look forward to hearing from you.

Lynda Atkins, National Chair, RBL

**The nomination form is attached with this Bulletin on my email.**

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**REMINDER - Compensation for military-related hearing loss**

If your hearing was affected by your time in the UK Armed Forces, you may be entitled to compensation. Get in touch with our Contact Centre on **0808 802 8080** and we'll see if you're eligible to make a claim.

You must make any claims that are not under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme or Service Pension Order before 30th January 2026.

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**\*\*REMINDER – IMPORTANT INFORMATION\*\***

**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 (for all County and Branch Officers)
- Branch Management (for all new branch officers)
- County Management (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 (for all Coordinators)
- BCS Refresher (to be completed every two years by all BCS staff)





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Informal Resolution  
Outlook Navigation  
Membership Administration Portal (MAP) General  
Safeguarding Children  
Membership IT Basics  
Preparing Motions for Conference (NEW)

Please contact me should you have any queries. Being new to the role, I shall soon start advertising on Discover the face-to-face courses and happy to visit your location to deliver training.

Penny Mottram  
Somerset County Training Officer  
[Somerset.CTO@rbl.community](mailto:Somerset.CTO@rbl.community)



## Welcome to Silver Trees Community Hub

*A place to connect, laugh, learn and thrive.*

Looking for a friendly place  
to spend your day?

Come along to Silver Trees  
Community Hub - a warm,  
welcoming space for older adults  
to relax, make new friends, enjoy  
fun activities and tuck into a tasty  
three-course meal



### What we offer

- Engaging daily activities & workshops
- Guest speakers, light learning,  
seasonal events & entertainers
- Time to socialise and make new friends
- A delicious three-course lunch and  
refreshments throughout the day
- A relaxed, friendly atmosphere - with  
plenty of laughter



**At £52.50 per day (10am-3pm)**

**Monday to Friday  
Limited Spaces Available**

Includes:

- Full access to all activities
- A restaurant style three-course meal  
from our home cooked menu
- Refreshments throughout the day

(Please note: Transport is not included. But we are  
working closely with local transport providers and will  
support you in finding a solution if needed.)

**Contact: 01275 859556**  
[silvertrees.wellbeing@handsale.co.uk](mailto:silvertrees.wellbeing@handsale.co.uk)



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## War Veterans - Skin Cancer and War Pensions

(War pensions agency) = Veterans Agency = an executive of the Ministry of Defence (MoD)

Did you know that if you have had a skin cancer or certain precancers that you may be eligible for a War Pension.

Contact:

Director of Medical Services  
Veterans Agency  
Room 6403 Norcross  
Blackpool  
Lancs  
FY5 3WP

Tel: 01253 332 407

[www.veterans-uk.info/](http://www.veterans-uk.info/)



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### **Pawlett Branch Events**

We hold a COFFEE MORNING with a bring and buy table and raffle on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at the RBL Club 10.30am, Pawlett RBL Club, 29 Old Main Road, Pawlett TA6 4RY.

#### **2026**

11 February

11 March

8 April

13 May

10 June

8 July

### **PROGRAMME OF SPEAKERS FOR PAWLETT RBL 2026**

Meetings are normally the third Monday of the month commencing at 2.30pm. £3 entrance which includes refreshments and raffle.

All talks are on a Monday.

MONDAY 19 January 2026 – Speaker: Captain David Parsons. The history and work of Trinity House

MONDAY 16 February 2026 - Speaker: Mike Rowlands. English Pubs and signs

MONDAY 16 March 2026 – Speaker: Brian Wright. Nursery Rhymes

MONDAY 20 April 2026 – Speaker: Andy Willett. Antarctica

MONDAY 18 May 2026 – Speaker: May Christopher Forrester speaking on Be Sober, be vigilant. The history of the Metropolitan Police Horse Service.

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### **This Week's Quiz**

1. What is the capital of Iceland?
2. What is the smallest planet in our solar system?
3. Who invented the telephone?
4. What is the largest ocean on Earth?
5. What is the main ingredient in guacamole?
6. How many sides does a hexagon have?
7. What is the chemical symbol for iron?
8. What does a thermometer measure?



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9. How many days are in a leap year?
10. What is the national flower of Japan?

### Answers Next week

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### Last Week's Quiz Answers:

1. Who holds the record for the most goals scored in international football? **Christiano Ronaldo**
  2. What sport uses a shuttlecock? **Badminton**
  3. What is the term for a score of zero in tennis? **Love**
  4. In what year were the first modern Olympic Games held? **1896**
  5. Which Formula 1 driver holds the record for the most World Championships? **Lewis Hamilton & Michael Schumacher (7 each)**
  6. What sport is played on the largest field? **Polo**
  7. What is the nickname of New Zealand's national rugby team? **All Blacks**
  8. What piece of equipment is used to hit the ball in tennis? **Racquet**
  9. Which country has won the most Cricket World Cups? **Australia**
  10. What is the fastest land animal? **Cheetah**
- 

### Something to finish with:

