



RBL ROYAL
BRITISH
LEGION



RUSHDEN

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

RBL RUSHDEN BRANCH NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2025

FROM FORCES NEWS: ROYALS LEAD TRIBUTES AS LAST SURVIVING BATTLE OF BRITAIN PILOT DIES AT THE AGE OF 105



The Prince and Princess of Wales and Gulf War veteran John Nichol are among the many people who have taken to social media to pay their respects to Group Captain John "Paddy" Hemingway, the last surviving pilot of the Battle of Britain.

The RAF veteran, who also took part in the Battle of France, died at the age of 105. Considered a legend in aviation history by many, Gp Capt Hemingway became known as one of The Few following a speech by Prime Minister Winston Churchill on 20 August 1940.

Following the Second World War pilot's death on St Patrick's Day, the Prince and Princess of Wales posted a tribute to Gp Capt Hemingway. They said: "We owe so much to Paddy and his generation for our freedoms today. Their bravery and sacrifice will always be remembered. We shall never forget them."

John Nicol said, "Very sad news indeed; "The Few" are all gone as John "Paddy" Hemingway, the last surviving pilot of the Battle of Britain dies aged 105. He never felt that he was anything special. He thought the special ones were friends who never returned. He is back with his squadron."

The Royal Air Force paid tribute to one of its most revered pilots, saying: "He never saw his role in the Battle of Britain as anything other than doing the job he was trained to do. He didn't see it as an epoch-making moment in the history of the RAF or the United Kingdom. This quiet, composed, thoughtful and mischievous individual may not have wanted to be the last of 'The Few', but he embodied the spirit of all those who flew sorties over this green and pleasant land."

Between July and October 1940, the nation's pilots faced unknown horrors in the skies above the south of England, defending the UK against Nazi oppression.

BFBS the Forces Station broadcaster Fiona Cameron spoke to Gp Capt Hemingway at his nursing home near Dublin in May 2017 about his memories of the time he spent as a fighter pilot during the Battle of Britain.

Dublin-born Gp Capt Hemingway joined the RAF in 1938 and was chosen to be a single-seat fighter pilot which, he said, suited him quite well, saying: "I fought the war alone. I just like being alone. When we were learning to fly in the Royal Air Force there were 30 on the course, three of us were chosen as fighter pilots.



I am deeply saddened to learn of the passing of John 'Paddy' Hemingway DFC.

Paddy came from a generation who understood the importance of freedom and sacrificed so much to achieve it. The last known Battle of Britain Pilot, he embodied the deep courage of that incredible generation.

On behalf of a grateful nation, I extend my condolences to his family and loved ones.

Defence Secretary John Healey MP

 Ministry of Defence

The rest were bomber pilots who got on well with the crews. Three of us were absolutely impossible and we went on fighters - and I was one of those three.

During the Battle of Britain, Gp Capt Hemingway served with No. 85 Squadron RAF and was shot down four times. He also had three narrow escapes. "One of them, I was night flying at the time and my operator, he made it out and got his seat caught in a bucket by two o'clock in the morning with rain pouring down," he explained. "He ended up marrying his nurse so not only did he curse me, but he praised me."

During intense aerial battles in August 1940, Gp Capt Hemingway was forced to parachute out of his Hurricane twice, landing in the sea off the Essex coast on one occasion and the other time in a marshy area.

A year later, Gp Capt Hemingway was forced to bail out of his Havoc night fighter at an altitude of 600ft due to a malfunction in his instruments during bad weather. After injuring his hand when it struck the tail section of the aircraft his parachute then deployed incorrectly. He was thankfully saved from severe injury as the parachute became caught in the branches of a tree.

Gp Capt Hemingway was awarded a Distinguished Flying Cross by King George VI in July 1941 for "gallantry and devotion to duty in the execution of air operations".

The centenarian dedicated his life to the RAF until he retired as group captain in 1969. He said: "I decided that when I was 50, I'd been there long enough. I wanted to do things you can't do in the Air Force."

His military career saw him become station commander of RAF Leconfield, joining the Air Ministry and, after the war, because of his writing skills, he joined the diplomatic staff in Turkey. He said: "With a name like Hemingway, I ought to be able to write. If somebody says absolute nonsense, I can have something that makes sense accurately in a very short time."

Gp Capt Hemingway was full of praise for the branch of the Armed Forces that took him around the world.

About his career in the RAF he said: "You're doing nothing except enjoying yourself, it's a very good career. They pay you too, not badly paid."

VE DAY 80 – 8TH MAY 2025 CELEBRATION & COMMEMORATION:



There will be celebrations and commemorations up and down the width and breadth of the UK on Thursday 8th May 2025, which, surprisingly, has not been designated as a public holiday. That will not stop many businesses and organisations doing their own thing to celebrate and remember those who gave us our freedoms we enjoy today.

Rushden Town Council is not an exception and along with the military community, the following programme has been drawn up:

0900 hrs: Nationwide

raising of VE Day Flag at Rushden War Memorial. All Branch Standards will be present. All are welcome to attend this brief ceremony which is also open to the public.

1900 hrs: Tea Party in Rushden Hall Park

1930 hrs: Music from the period by the Mission Band

2115 hrs: Memorial Service

2130 hrs: Lighting of the Beacon

It is likely there will be street parties around the town, hence the gap from 9am to 7pm.

A TRIBUTE TO WWII VETERAN NOREEN RIOLS



One of the last surviving veterans of the World War Two Special Operations Executive (SOE), Noreen Riols (May 1926 – January 2025), was recently remembered by her friends in the RBL Paris Branch. Noreen played a unique role in the SOE's French Section – chosen due to her excellent French. Socialising with newly trained agents at pub outings and cocktails, she would engage them in conversation to see if they would 'spill the beans' to a pretty young girl about what they had been trained to do. Her stories fascinated many, and would be recounted with wit and humour. Noreen was awarded the Légion d'Honneur in 2014, and an MBE in 2023.

“Many things have been written about Noreen Riols and those of us who knew her will have fond memories of the lady she was. A glass of ginger beer will be on the bar in your memory at our next lunch.”

Royal British Legion | Central News February 2025 | Issue 37 Tribute thanks to Janet Warby, Richard Neave and M Yates.

TELL US OF YOUR RELATIVES VE DAY & VJ DAY EXPERIENCES

As we approach the 80th anniversary of VE Day on 8th May 2025 and VJ Day on 15th August 2025, Branch members are invited to share personal stories, memories, or photographs of relatives who played a role in this historic moment. Whether they served on the front lines, supported the war effort at home, or witnessed the celebrations, these stories will help bring the anniversary to life. Please email Branch Secretary Lynne Baker at Rushden.secretary@rbl.community or phone Branch Chairman Jake Baker on 07525 441267.

WOMENS INTERNATIONAL DAY 2025 THE HIGHEST-RANKING WOMAN IN THE BRITISH ARMY BRIGADIER NICKY MOFFAT CBE



Nicky Moffat is a distinguished speaker renowned for her exemplary leadership skills and experience in the Armed Forces, spanning 27 years. Her career is marked by her service in various high-stakes environments, including the Field Army, Army Headquarters, and the Ministry of Defence. Nicky's roles have ranged from strategy and policy to finance, providing her with a robust understanding of military and governmental operations.

She served as a private secretary at the heart of the UK Government, supporting the Secretary of State for Defence during critical operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, Sierra Leone, and during domestic crises like the Foot and Mouth outbreak in Cumbria.

Her leadership journey in the military saw her commanding roles such as Training Company Commander, Training Regiment Commander, and Director of her specialty, culminating in leading 4,500 soldiers within the Army's personnel and finance functions. This extensive experience in leadership and command has made her insights invaluable, earning her recognition and the honour of being appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in the 2012 New Year's Honours. Nicky's transition from the Army to the corporate world involved founding What Good Leadership Looks Like, a consultancy focused on developing leadership and improving organizational culture.

Her expertise is sought after across various sectors, including financial services, health, oil and gas, construction, transport, education, media, and law. She supports executive teams and individuals as a leadership and career coach, emphasizing transformative and sustainable improvements. Her credibility as a speaker is reinforced by her numerous television appearances on platforms such as BBC Newsnight and BBC Breakfast, as well as her role in the series Secret Agent Selection: WW2 (BBC)/Churchill's Secret Agents (Netflix). Additionally, Nicky has contributed to the English National Opera's production of Benjamin Britten's War Requiem, showcasing her creative versatility.

Nicky Moffat's profound experience and ability to connect with diverse audiences have led to her being named one of the best International Women's Day speakers by Champions Speakers (<https://champions-speakers.co.uk/news/best-international-womens-day-speakers>).

RBL HELPLINE – 0808 802 8080 - CALL 8am to 8pm 7 DAYS A WEEK RBL WELFARE AND SUPPORT SERVICES

RBL Northamptonshire Area Welfare Team is here to help. We are part of the Legion's extensive Poppy Support services. If you are serving, have served, or are the dependent or carer of someone who has served in the UK's Armed Forces, then you are eligible for our help.

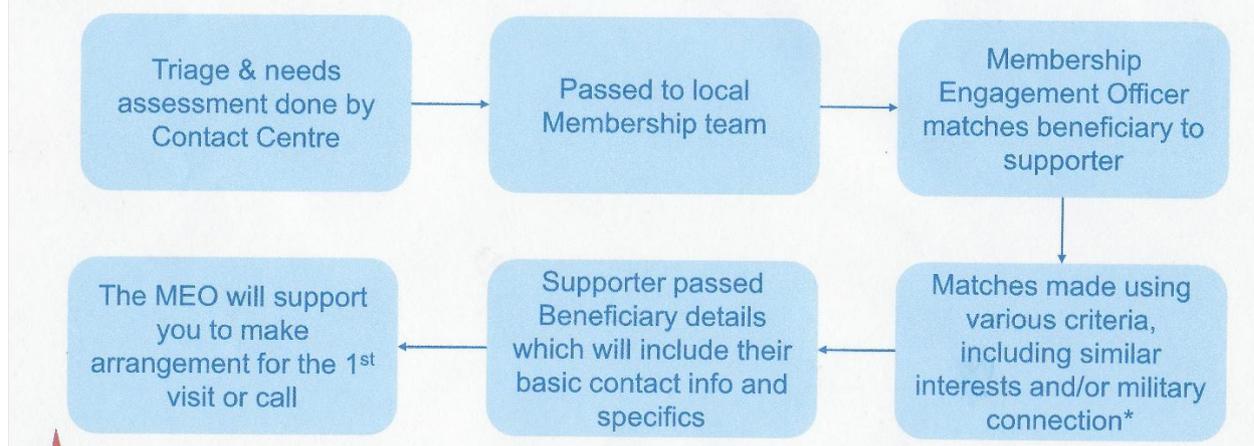
We can offer financial aid in an urgent crisis, help homeless ex-Service people get back on their feet, advise on compensation claims, offer careers advice for those looking to make a fresh start after leaving the Forces, arrange home or hospital visits and much more. **Useful Telephone Numbers:**

The RBL Contact Centre: 8am–8pm, 7 days a week: **0808 802 8080** (free from UK landlines and main mobile networks)

Veterans Gateway: Advisors available 24 hours a day, seven days a week: **0808 802 1212**

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, PART OF WHICH MAY BE RUN ALONG THE LINES OF THE DIAGRAM BELOW. PLEASE BEAR IN MIND THAT EVERY SITUATION IS DIFFERENT.**

Triage and matching



FRIENDS OF THE LEGION

Friends of the Legion have arranged a summer trip to Sheringham on Wednesday 2nd July 2025. Members who wish to come must let Peter Armstrong know at the April Branch monthly meeting (14th April 2025). Any spare places will be open to the Fibromyalgia Action Group. Peter can be contacted on **07498 243683** or on email on rushden.bcc1@rbl.community

WHAT'S ON DURING APRIL & MAY 2025?

2nd April – 43rd Anniversary of the beginning of Op CORPORATE (Falklands)

6th April – 33rd Anniversary of the Bosnian War

18th -21st April – Easter Weekend

23rd April - St George's Day

26th April – ANZAC Day RBL Ceremony Towcester Rd Cemetery, Northampton, NN4 8LP

3rd – 5th May - East Midlands Steam & Country Show at Lancaster Farm, Chelveston

– **YOUR HELP IS NEEDED TO RUN THE STALLS. PLEASE SEE THE LAST PAGE**

8th May – VE Day Celebrations & Commemorations at Rushden Hall Park

16th – 18th May – RBL Annual Conference 2025 – See more details below

First Thursday of every month – **3rd April & 1st May**. 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.

Second Monday of every month - **14th April** – 7.30pm start. **Branch Monthly Meeting** – followed by Nick Cooke's presentation "*Bletchley, The Home of the Codebreakers*" and the next **Branch Monthly Meeting is on 12th May** followed by "*Alice Hawkins – Suffragette*" by Peter Hawkins JP, who is the Great Grandson of Alice Hawkins.

Second Thursday of every month - **10th April & 8th May** - 9am start - **NGH Breakfast Club** is organised by the Defence Medical Welfare Service 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.

Last Friday of every month – **25th April & 30th May** – 9am start – **KGH Breakfast Club** organised by the Defence Medical Welfare Service 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.

Every Wednesday & Saturday Morning – 9am start: Northants Breakfast Club (**NBC**) dine at The Needle and Awl. All Veterans are welcome – Veterans' Families are invited to join on the last Saturday of each month; these are on **26th April** & **31st May**.

Fourth Tuesday of every month **22nd April & 27th May**. 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

IN MEMORIAM

Members were recently informed that former Branch Membership Secretary Les Meakings passed away on 22nd February 2025. He served 22 years in the RAF. Both he and his wife Carryl have been long time members of the Branch and Carryl remains so to this day. His funeral was held at the Nene Valley Crematorium on 18th March 2025 and was attended by many members, with both RBL Rushden Branch and RAF Association Rushden & District Branch 0519 Standards present. Our condolences are extended to his family.

RBL ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025 IN HARROGATE

Members attending either in person or virtually are as follows:

In person: David Hawker (President), Jake Baker (Chairman) & Lynne Baker (Secretary)

Virtually: No Members have notified any Committee Member yet

Registration closes on Sunday March 30th for in-person attendees (so there remains a day or two to register), and on Tuesday April 22nd for virtual attendees.

The link for registration is here <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/things-to-do/membership/our-members/annual-conference> If you need support with the registration process, please contact Branch Secretary Lynne Baker at rushden.secretary@rbl.community, or in her absence our County Membership Engagement Officer (MEO) Lebo Nyoni at northamptonshire.meo@rbl.community

Finally, if you're planning to attend Annual Conference in person, be sure to look at the discounts and offers available through the Harrogate Convention Centre's website <https://www.harrogateconventioncentre.co.uk/visitors/visitor-discount-offers/category/travel-offers> These are available for travel, accommodation, dining out, shopping and more, in and around Harrogate. For travel to and from Harrogate by train with LNER, discounted tickets are available through the website using discount code HCC25, following the instructions and T&Cs.

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

Committee Member – Graham Chambers: via rushden.secretary@rbl.community

BCC & BCS Rep – Peter Armstrong: rushden.bcc1@rbl.community or **07498 243683**

Poppy Appeal Organiser – Ruth Miller: poppyappealrushden@gmail.com

Branch Standard Bearer - Mark Taberner-Stokes: via rushden.secretary@rbl.community

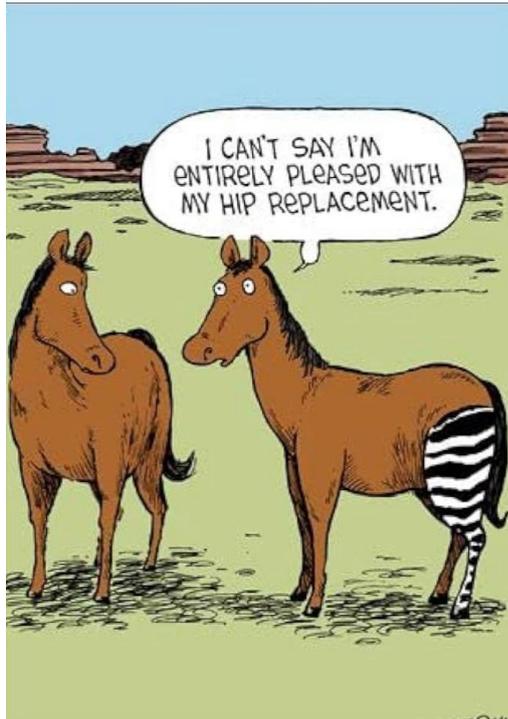
HOW ABOUT A LITTLE BIT OF HUMOUR

A long time ago, Britain and France were at war. During one battle, the French captured a British Colonel. They took him to their Headquarters, and the French General began to question him. Finally, as an afterthought, the French General asked, "Why do you British officers all wear red coats? Don't you know the red material makes you easier targets for us to shoot at?"

In his casual, matter of fact way, the officer informed the General that the reason British officers wear red coats is so that if they are wounded, the blood won't show, and the men they are leading won't panic.

And that is why, from that day forward, all French Army officers wear brown trousers.

FROM PUNS, ONE LINERS AND CLEVER WORDPLAY 🍷



Yorkshireman takes his cat to a vet. "Ayup lad I need to talk to thee about me cat".

Vet, "Is it a tom?".

"Nay, I've browt it wi us".

Three youths recently broke into the menswear section of our local Department Store. Two of them were arrested hiding amongst the medium sized clothing whilst the other is still at large!

Mate - "How's your diet going?"

Me - "Not very well to be honest."

Mate - "Well what did you have for breakfast then?"

Me - "Eggs."

Mate - "Poached, Scrambled or Boiled?"

Me - "Cadburys"...

THE GREAT FIRE OF NORTHAMPTON 1675

Plans are afoot to mark the 350th anniversary of the Great Fire of Northampton, with a packed programme of cultural events and celebrations to commemorate this historic event.

2025 marks 350 years since flames ripped through the streets of Northampton, destroying 700 of the 850 buildings in the town centre and claiming 11 lives.

To observe the anniversary, cultural and historical groups are teaming up with partners, including Northampton Town Centre Business Improvement District (BID), Northampton Town Council and West Northamptonshire Council to put together a series of events to showcase the story of the fire and the rebuild that followed.

The celebrations will be launched on Thursday, 29th of May 2025 with an Oak Apple Day parade and service at All Saints Church – including the annual hanging of a wreath in honour of King Charles II, who donated 1,000 tonnes of timber to help rebuild much of the town.

Art historian James Miller, who is spearheading the project, said: "The Great Fire of Northampton is a hugely significant moment in our town's history and we are looking forward to marking the 350th anniversary in style.

There will be a five-month programme of activities that we are encouraging all community groups and organisations to get involved with, including everything from art exhibitions and light shows, to processions and window displays.

This will be an opportunity for the town to come together to celebrate Northampton's extraordinary resilience, civic pride and independent spirit. It is that character that shone through 350 years ago and is still very much in evidence today."

The blaze is believed to have been caused by sparks from an open fire in a home on St Mary's Street, near the former castle site. The fire quickly spread and engulfed the surrounding buildings. As the flames raged, residents sought refuge in the Market Square, but the situation grew increasingly dire, and the authorities ordered the evacuation of the area, with terrified residents forced to flee.

The fire's destructive path left behind a scene of devastation, with prominent

buildings such as All Hallows Church reduced to ashes.

While the Great Fire of Northampton caused immense destruction, it also marked a turning point in the town's architectural development. Following the fire, efforts were made to rebuild and revitalise Northampton, leading to the construction of new buildings and a renewed focus on urban planning.

In a remarkable display of community spirit and determination, local residents and businesses rallied together, raising £25,000 to finance the ambitious reconstruction of the town centre, centred around the bustling Market Square.

Mark Mullen, operations manager of Northampton BID, said: "The memory of All Hallows' Church and its destruction in the Great Fire of Northampton, serves as a reminder of the resilience of the town and its ability to recover and rebuild even in the face of catastrophic events.

The anniversary celebrations will channel that community spirit and shine a light on the history and heritage that gives Northampton such a proud identity."

Northampton Town Council has commissioned a virtual trail as part of the celebrations, to transport users back to the day of the Great Fire, with characters telling the story of the catastrophic event as it unfolded. The trail will be available on the Explore Northampton app from May. Cllr Jane Birch, Chair of the Community Services Committee at Northampton Town Council, said: "The Great Fire 350 app will allow users to step back in time and learn more about the fire and its impact on the town, including information about the buildings it affected, some of which survive to this day. We are excited to be working with so many partners to mark this anniversary year, beginning with Oak Apple Day, which is an important event in Northampton's civic calendar." For more details visit: www.discovernorthampton.co.uk/GFON350

MORE EXTRACTS FROM RBL CENTRAL NEWS

“WHAT MEMBERSHIP MEANS TO ME”

This stunning photo of the Sydney Opera House featured in last year's Reflections on Remembrance.



(Photo next to the Sydney Opera House: The British Consul General, Paul's grandson and Paul laying a wreath on behalf of the RBL at St Andrew's Cathedral.)

For those of us who missed it, for the last eight years, residents of Sydney, Australia have seen the city's iconic Opera House decorated in a stunning light show of poppies for Remembrance. The brainchild of Paul Graham (David P Graham OAM JP), one of the RBL's many dedicated overseas members, the idea came to Paul when he was supporting the Poppy Appeal. *"I was selling poppies in my local shopping centre and was asked many times what the poppies were for,"*

he says. *“I was quite upset about this. I came home and wondered what I could do to better educate people on what the poppy stood for.”*

Paul decided that if he could get the poppies of Flanders Fields projected onto the sails of the Sydney Opera House, it would reach more people than he ever could. Taking up the challenge, he wrote to the Lord Mayor of Sydney. *“They replied ‘nothing to do with us’,”* he says. He also wrote to the Opera House without success. But Paul didn’t give up. Writing to various government departments, he received negative responses. The tide finally turned when he wrote to the Premier of New South Wales who, says Paul, replied *“What a great idea”*. Last year, says Paul, a photo he took of the display got over a million hits on social media. A Royal Navy veteran, Paul served from 1954 to 1970. After moving to Australia in 1970, he says he always tried to teach people what the poppy stands for. He joined RBL, he says, because he wanted to support an organisation that is trusted and meaningful.

For him, membership also means connecting to fellow veterans and raising awareness. *“It is vitally important that the RBL remains strong and profitable in order to look after veterans past, serving, and their families,”* he says.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION’S CAMPAIGN COMMUNITY



The Speaker’s House is the official residence of the Speaker of the House of Commons and is only available to those organisations invited by the Speaker. We were thrilled to have been given the opportunity to host an event at such a historic space in Parliament.

The Speaker of the House of Commons, The Rt Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP opening the event

Over 60 MPs and Peers were in attendance from across the political spectrum, giving them the opportunity to hear more about the needs and experiences of the Armed Forces community in the UK, and the work RBL does to support them. All MPs in attendance were also given information about their local Armed Forces community. Speakers at the event included the Speaker of the House of Commons, The Rt Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP, Minister for Veterans and People Al Carns OBE MC MP and RBL Chair Jason Coward. Attendees also heard from Gemma Barnes, vice-captain of RBL’s Invictus Team UK, who shared her inspiring recovery journey days before she joined the rest of the team in Canada.



Al Carns MP, Minister for Veterans and People and Gemma Barnes, Vice-Captain of RBL’s Invictus Team UK addressing guests.

D-DAY 80 CHALLENGE 44

During 5th to 8th June 2024, Branch Chairman Jake Baker and fellow Committee Member Steve Miller took part in the Combat Stress fundraising D-Day 80 Challenge held in Normandy, France. This four-day package included return transport from London, three-nights' accommodation, all meals and full medical and event support. They did the 22-mile walk rather than a 22-mile run and a 44-mile ultra-run, deciding to leave that for the younger element of participants. There were a number of fundraising options and after deciding their team's name – The Rushdenites – they opted for a personal non-refundable joining fee with a promise to raise a minimum of £1,250 each. Thanks to the generosity of so many people and the wonderful support of their wives Lynne and Ruth and Steve's Sister Bren and Brother-in-law Kev, they raised a total of £6,645. Their efforts were acknowledged recently at the Combat Stress Extra-Mile Awards 2025 at the Cavalry & Guards Club London, jointly winning the Fundraising Team of the Year 2024 with the Band of Brothers; the citation reads *"In an inspiring feat of dedication and resilience, Band of Brothers & The Rushdenites took on our D-Day Challenge, completing a 44-mile ultra run and a 22-mile walk across Normandy's historic beaches, finishing at Pegasus Bridge. Together, they raised an outstanding £17,501, contributing to a record-breaking £191,214—making last year our most successful D-Day Challenge yet"*. Steve and Jake were justly proud of that and wish to thank everybody for their generosity and support.



Dining before the Awards Ceremony



Fundraising Teams of the Year 2024



The Band of Brothers and Team Rushdenites member Steve with both his and Jake's Team Award



With their Team Award

EVENTS FOR 2025 – WE NEED YOUR HELP

3rd – 5th May - East Midlands Steam & Country Show at Lancaster Farm, Chelveston. We need a few members to **help run the stall**. Just a couple of hours each day and the more members to help out, the easier for all concerned. Don't worry about transport, taxi costs, etc. We'll pick you up and take you back after you've had a good mooch around first 😊 If you can help and need a lift, please call Jake on **07525 441267**.

28th June - **Rushden Armed Forces Day**. We will be having a Stall, probably a Tombola Stall run by Alan & Barbara Clark, Gazebos and the RBL Trailer at the Goods Shed Yard. Branch President David Hawker will be sketching portraits. We need volunteer **marshals** near the saluting dais on the High Street (outside the Independent Wesleyan Church) and to marshal those attending the Drumhead Service. We will also want **volunteers to help run the stalls** and the RBL Trailer. For more information, please contact a **Committee Member or Jake Baker on 07525 441267**. They can offer transport assistance if needed to and from home.

12th July - **Party in the Park at Rushden Hall Park**. We will be having a Stall, a Tombola Stall probably run by Alan & Barbara Clark, Gazebos and the RBL Trailer. Branch President David Hawker will be sketching portraits. We need **volunteers** to help run the stalls and RBL Trailer.

3rd August - **Classic Car Show at Rushden Hall Park**. It is likely the RBL Trailer will be there, and this is ideally a recruiting opportunity. BCC Peter Armstrong, Poppy Appeal Organisers Ruth & Steve Miller and Jake & Lynne Baker have offered to support in recruiting new members, but more **engagers and volunteers to run the stalls** are required, so everybody can take a good break and enjoy looking at the vintage vehicles.

6th September – **Proms in the Park – Rushden Hall Park Walled Garden**. We may be asked to support by providing **marshals**. Further information will be passed on when known.

7th September - **Bark in the Park at Rushden Hall Park**. It is likely the RBL Trailer will be there, and this is ideally a recruiting opportunity. BCC Peter Armstrong, Poppy Appeal Organisers Ruth & Steve Miller and Jake & Lynne Baker have offered to support in recruiting new members, but more **engagers and volunteers to run the stalls** are required, so everybody can take a good break and enjoy seeing the dogs. Barbara and Alan may be running a Tombola Stall too - tbc.

18th October – **The Veteran's Big Band commencing 3pm at Park Road Baptist Church** - Whilst this will be a dedicated fundraising event for the RAF's Wings Appeal, our local RAF Association have decided to split profits three ways evenly to the RBL, RNA and RAFA. We need Ushers, Refreshments Assistants and Bucket Holders for donations.

9th November - **Remembrance Sunday at Rushden War Memorial**. PAOs Ruth & Steve Miller will be seeking donation **bucket collectors** on the day from around 10.20am to 10.45am and 11.20am to 11.40am. More details to follow nearer the time.

IF YOU CAN HELP IN ANYWAY, PLEASE CONTACT A COMMITTEE MEMBER OR JAKE OR LYNNE ON 07525 441267 or rushden.secretary@rbl.community