



## Wiltshire & Dorset Counties MEO Bulletin – 19<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Welcome to my MEO Wiltshire & Dorset bulletin for the 19<sup>th</sup> of June 2024. Please do feel free to send me things you'd like included throughout the week or anything you would like shared across the counties.

### D-Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Wrap-Up:

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Firstly, I would like to say a big thank you to all the branches that reached out to either myself or their respective county committees about what their plans were for D-Day 80. It was great to see the level of preparation and commitment that went into your events!

Secondly, I would also like to thank **RBL Corsham, Calne, Bromham & Royal Wootton Bassett** for allowing me to be a part of their events.

If you have any photos that you took of your events for D-Day 80, please do send them over to me at [wdommett@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:wdommett@britishlegion.org.uk). My plan is to create a folder on both the Dorset & Wiltshire MAP webpages which will contain all the photos taken across the counties. I appreciate that there has been some difficulty trying to access some of the files and or photos that I tried to attach to my previous emails where I send the bulletin out on. I believe this should fix that issue.

### Recent RBL Branch Visits:

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I would like to thank **RBL Highworth, Lytchett United and Edington** who have recently let me join their branch meetings (5<sup>th</sup> June, 11<sup>th</sup> June and 18<sup>th</sup> June respectively). It was great to meet some new faces and catch up with some familiar ones.

I am always looking to attend as many branch committee meetings as possible and thank you to all the branches that have been reaching out to me with invitations. Do get in touch with me at [wdommett@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:wdommett@britishlegion.org.uk) if you would like me to attend your next branch meeting!

### Armed Forces Day – 29<sup>th</sup> June 2024:

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With Armed Forces Day coming up next week on Saturday, it would be great to hear of any events that are happening across Dorset and Wiltshire. Send me an email at [wdommett@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:wdommett@britishlegion.org.uk) with any details!

Similarly, when Armed Forces Day does come around, please also feel free to send me any photos of your event, and I'd be more than happy to ensure that they are shared for all branches to see.

Thank you in advance!

## A Soldier's View – Alex Gordon Alexander:

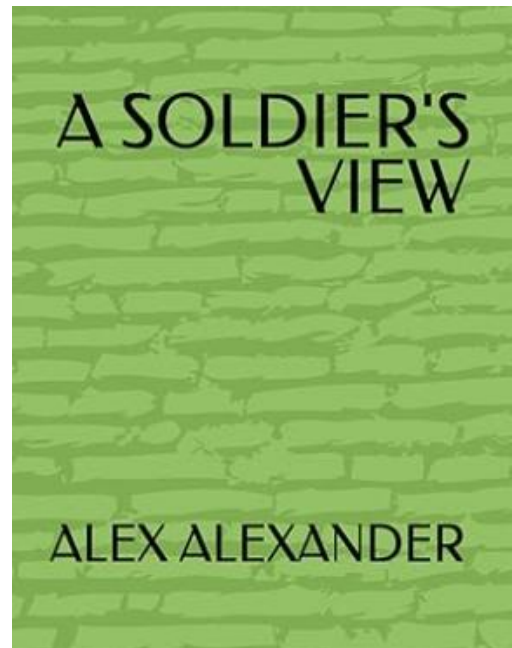
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Whilst visiting the exhibition that RBL Calne were hosting on D-Day 80, I managed to look at a book of poetry written by Alex Gordon Alexander: a member of the Calne branch.

A veteran of 26 years, Alex has written this book of poetry to help others who struggle after their service in the military with homelessness, mental health conditions and the overall transition back into civilian life.

Alex himself has struggled with Complex Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (CPTSD) for several years and has found that writing poetry helps put his feelings onto paper.

All the proceeds that are raised from the purchase of this book go towards helping other veterans who are also suffering from PTSD.



For those who wish to purchase Alex's book, I have provide the Amazon page [here](#) where you can order it. Additionally, you can also get in touch with Janet Alexander (Calne Chairman) at [wiltshire.ccsc@brl.community](mailto:wiltshire.ccsc@brl.community), where they can have it sent to you for £10 (plus postage). Lastly, do also let Janet know whether you would like to have a signed copy of the book or not, and they would be happy to oblige.

## RBL Annual Accounts Reminder:

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Just a reminder to all branches to make sure that you close your accounts as of the **30<sup>th</sup> of June 2024** and obtain a bank statement showing the balance then. This in preparation for Annual Accounts season that will be taking place from the **1<sup>st</sup> of July** and until the **30<sup>th</sup> of September**.

Branches should expect to receive the forms by the end of this week (**23<sup>rd</sup> of June 2024**), so I ask all Branch Treasurers to keep an eye out for either their electronic or physical forms. There may be a chance that the forms are slightly delayed in coming out, however if you feel as if your branch has waited a little too long for your forms to come through, please do not hesitate in getting in touch with me and I will chase.

Any other questions and or queries, get in touch with me regarding these also.



## Membership Administration Portal (MAP) Email Addresses & Discover Online Training:

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If you haven't already, please do get in touch with me at [wdommett@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:wdommett@britishlegion.org.uk) to get your MAP address sorted. MAP addresses are designed to make carrying out your duties as a committee member much easier for yourself.

If you feel that this is something you would like to have access to but are unsure as to what it entails for yourself and the branch, Keith Passant (Wiltshire County Training Officer) and myself would be more than happy to run a quick session to introduce you to MAP so that you understand how it all works. Please email myself at [wdommett@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:wdommett@britishlegion.org.uk) or Keith Passant at [Wiltshire.cto@rbl.community](mailto:Wiltshire.cto@rbl.community) if this would be of interest.

As a reminder, this is what the MAP email addresses would look like based on your position within branch committee:

- Chairman ([yourbranchhere.chair@rbl.community](mailto:yourbranchhere.chair@rbl.community))
- Vice Chairman ([yourbranchhere.vicechair@rbl.community](mailto:yourbranchhere.vicechair@rbl.community))
- Secretary ([yourbranchhere.secretary@rbl.community](mailto:yourbranchhere.secretary@rbl.community))
- Treasurer ([yourbranchhere.treasurer@rbl.community](mailto:yourbranchhere.treasurer@rbl.community))

I'd also like to take this opportunity to invite those who have not done so already to check out the online training courses which are available for your branch committee roles on our Learning Management System (LMS) named **Discover**. The following link will take you to the login page where you can start the process of registering yourself up to Discover – [Discover Welcome Page](#)

For those who are not familiar with Discover, I have attached a step-by-step guide to the same email that you can find this MEO bulletin on which should take you through all the steps. In addition to that, I am always on hand at [wdommett@britishlegion.org](mailto:wdommett@britishlegion.org) if you find yourself with any questions or queries.



## Upcoming Dates for Your Diary:

Date	Event	Location
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2024  10:00am – 15:00pm	BCS Training Course – Cornwall	<b>St Austell Sea Cadet, Boscarne Crescent, St Austell, PL25 4PW</b> - Please let me know if you have members wishing to attend this event.
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2024  12:00pm – Onwards	Remembering Kosovo – 25 years on	National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire
Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	Armed Forces Day	Multiple events taking place Nationwide – check the <a href="#">National Memorial Arboretum</a> to see what they are hosting.
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2024	Start of Annual Accounts 2024	Ensure you have a bank statement for your branch produced for the <b>30<sup>th</sup> June 2024</b> .  Please get in touch with me if you have any questions.
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> July 2024  14:00pm – 16:00pm	Standard Bearer Training - Dorset	<b>Victoria Grove, Bridport, DT6 3AD</b>
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> July 2024  14:00pm – 16:00pm	Standard Bearer Training – Dorset	<b>Victoria Grove, Bridport, DT6 3AD</b>
30 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	Annual Accounts Deadline	Please do try to meet this deadline and let me know if this is going to be a problem.



Thank you very much for reading this week's edition of my MEO bulletin. As always, if you have any questions, please do reach out and I will assist you.

Kind regards,

*Will*

Will Dommett  
MEO Wiltshire & Dorset (Membership Engagement Officer)

**M:** 07519 576356

**E:** [wdommett@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:wdommett@britishlegion.org.uk)

<b>Useful Contacts for Wiltshire</b>	
County President - General Sir Jack Deverell	
County Chairman - Mr Paul Mayo	<a href="mailto:wiltshire.chairman@rbl.community">wiltshire.chairman@rbl.community</a>
County Secretary – Mr Mick Street	<a href="mailto:wiltshire.secretary@rbl.community">wiltshire.secretary@rbl.community</a>
County Treasurer - Mr Warren Tudor	<a href="mailto:wiltshire.treasurer@rbl.community">wiltshire.treasurer@rbl.community</a>
County Training Officer - Mr Keith Passant	<a href="mailto:wiltshire.cto@rbl.community">wiltshire.cto@rbl.community</a>
County Youth Officer – Mr Jonathan Everett	<a href="mailto:wiltshire.cyo@rbl.community">wiltshire.cyo@rbl.community</a>
County Recruiting Officer – Mr Kevin Swift	<a href="mailto:wiltshire.cro@rbl.community">wiltshire.cro@rbl.community</a>
County Community Support Coordinator- Janet Alexander	<a href="mailto:wiltshire.CCSC@rbl.community">wiltshire.CCSC@rbl.community</a>
County Parade Marshal – Mr John Elliot	<a href="mailto:Calne.MemSecretary@rbl.community">Calne.MemSecretary@rbl.community</a>
County Standard Bearer - Mr Kevin Toft	<a href="mailto:seend.stdbearer@rbl.community">seend.stdbearer@rbl.community</a>
County Website Editor - Mr Keith Passant	<a href="mailto:wiltshire.cto@rbl.community">wiltshire.cto@rbl.community</a>
Membership Council Rep – Mr Gerry Nunn	<a href="mailto:GNunn@britishlegion.org.uk">GNunn@britishlegion.org.uk</a>
Poppy Appeal Manager – Mr Peter Saunders	<a href="mailto:PSaunders@britishlegion.org.uk">PSaunders@britishlegion.org.uk</a>
<b>Useful Contacts for Dorset</b>	
County President – Sir Andrew Graham	
County Chairman - Mr Grant Parrott	<a href="mailto:Dorset.Chairman@RBL.Community">Dorset.Chairman@RBL.Community</a>
County Treasurer - Mr Bob Fletcher	<a href="mailto:Dorset.Treasurer@RBL.Community">Dorset.Treasurer@RBL.Community</a>
County Secretary - Mrs Carol Lewis	<a href="mailto:Dorset.secretary@rbl.community">Dorset.secretary@rbl.community</a>
County Community Support Officer - Mr Wayne Barker	<a href="mailto:Dorset.CCSC@rbl.community">Dorset.CCSC@rbl.community</a>
County Recruiting Officer – Mr Tony Harvey	<a href="mailto:Dorset.CRO@rbl.community">Dorset.CRO@rbl.community</a>
County Parade Marshal – Mr Spencer Hare	<a href="mailto:Dorset.ParadeMarshal@rbl.community">Dorset.ParadeMarshal@rbl.community</a>
Chairman of the Conference Committee - Mr Don Curry	<a href="mailto:donnynorth@gmail.com">donnynorth@gmail.com</a>
Membership Council Rep - Mr Gerry Nunn	<a href="mailto:Gnunn@britishlegion.org.uk">Gnunn@britishlegion.org.uk</a>
Poppy Appeal Manager – Tasha Randall	<a href="mailto:TRandall@britishlegion.org.uk">TRandall@britishlegion.org.uk</a>



**Legion Services Contact Centre - 0800 802 80 80** – open 7 days a week 8 am – 8 pm. For members with general queries and welfare issues as the first point of contact for RBL.

**Members Helpline: 0800 307 7773** – for issues with payments, renewals, joining and any other membership queries \* I can update members' details and add or transfer them to a branch FYI.

**Veterans' Gateway** – information, advice and support for veterans and their families 24/7, for all welfare needs. From healthcare and housing to employability, and more. Veterans should get in touch and the Veterans Gateway will refer them to the correct expert who can help.

The **Veterans' Gateway** can be contacted by Calling **0808 802 1212** or Texting **81212**. There is also email and chat available via The **Veterans' Gateway** website <https://www.veteransgateway.org.uk>.