

We will remember them

To all whom we have lost this month. Our sincere condolences to family and friends.



Our mission is to safeguard the welfare, interests, and memory of those who are serving or who have served in the Armed Forces



Our new County Chairman: Richard Moore

Richard Moore has been elected the new Hampshire County Chairman. He has a military background having served with the 1st Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (PWRR - the Tigers) from 2001 to 2013.

Richard served on the following Operational Tours of Duty

Kosovo 2002 Op Agrigola 8
Iraq 2004 Op Telic 4 (Cimic House)
Iraq 2006 Op Telic 8
Afghanistan 2009 Op Herrick 9/10

Richard retired on medical reasons in 2013 and started Volunteering to help with Veterans Care in 2015. In 2015 Richard helped the Serves Project in Surrey retrain all the Surrey GPs and Dr's Surgery Staff and the Community Mental Health Teams and Other Support Agencies in better understanding Veterans with Mental Health. He also did an Interview with Forces TV News and John Ryan Forces Comedian.

Richard set up his PTSD Support Group on Facebook at that time and it is still continuing. Richard then set up the Godalming Veterans Club which is still running.

He then became heavily involved in being one of the Founding Committee Members of the very first PWRR Regimental Association London Branch and then assisted in the set up of the Southern Branch PWRR Association.

Richard joined the RBL in Liss in 2020 during Lockdown and was appointed to the Committee immediately. In 2024 Richard set up the Alton Armed Forces Veterans Support Network and now has a successful Beer & Banter Night and a Breakfast Club. Richard joined the Alton RBL Branch Committee in early 2025 and then joined the Aldershot Branch as a Member in April 2025.



In Richard's own words - I Aim to Bring Hampshire Forward Leading the way for other Counties on the Recruitment Surge for Younger members to allow the Legion Ethos and County to continue long after me by Engaging and Working with our Armed Forces Training Establishments in the Hampshire area and with various Youth Organisations.

I also would like to be the Face and Main Focal Point in spreading the word about the RBL at as many public events and engagements as I can. Being in the position as Chairman since 6th May 2025 I have so far attended the Aldershot Army FA 124th Challenge Cup Final, Royal Hospital Chelsea

Veterans Outreach First Event in Hampshire, The Royal Hospital Chelsea Governors Review and VIP after Function invited by the Lead for the Veterans Outreach Team and on the 21st June I will be Attending the Portsmouth Armed Forces Day Celebrations as a VIP dignitary guest.

I look forward to this challenge and striving forward with Hampshire County leading the way.

Richard Moore
County Chairman The Royal British Legion Hampshire

1 July to 18 November 1916 - Battle of the Somme

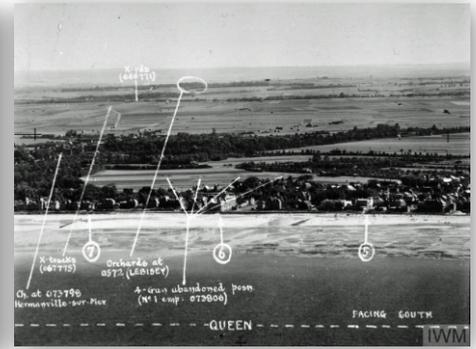
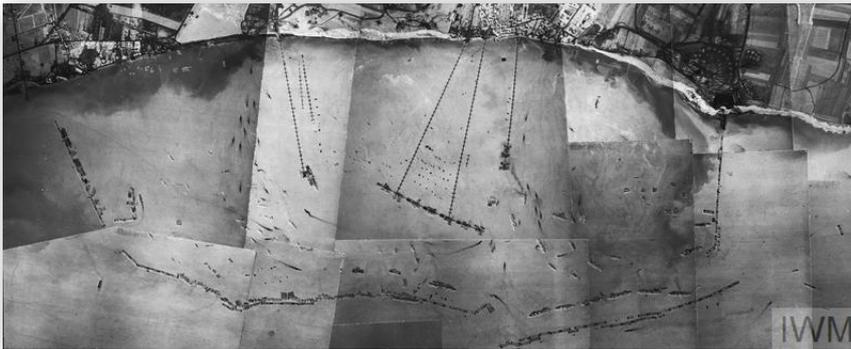
11 July 1995 - The Serbs overrun Srebrenica. UN troops are deployed to protect Sarajevo.





Droxford and District Branch, Lt Cdr Janet Melson RN - chair at the Sword Beach memorial

Wickham Branch members on their recent visit to Normandy.



Petersfield held an Armed Forces Day which was attended recently by Gulf War veteran Chris Paige who has been appointed Mayor of Petersfield and Fred Taylor who is the Mayor's Cadet. Branch President David Lodrick was also there amongst other town officials. David Lloyd



Making a Difference



One of our unsung heroes in the RBL. Petersfield RBL member David Lloyd's wife, Kristina busily crochets for the Petersfield "Poppy Waterfall" project. Without the help of kindhearted people like Kristina, there would not be an ability for the RBL to achieve their objectives. David Lloyd



Multi Activity Courses (Battle Back Centre Lilleshall)

Recovery Services

Course Dates 2025



These courses are held at the Battle Back Centre in Lilleshall. They provide a structured environment for veterans to engage in adaptive sports and adventurous activities. Participants take part in activities such as wheelchair basketball, indoor climbing, golf, archery, and team challenges.

Lilleshall Hall, originally built in 1831 as a hunting lodge for the Duke of Sutherland, became a National Sports Centre in 1951. It famously hosted the England football team before their 1966 World Cup win and later became home to the FA's School of Excellence, training stars like Michael Owen and Sol Campbell.

Our Recovery through the Arts programme helps support people's recovery journey. From painting and sculpture to creative writing workshops and theatre visits, we run a range of residential and online courses throughout the year that provide opportunities to develop new skills, whilst improving confidence and motivation.



These courses are also open to veterans, their partners and carers. If any veterans are interested in a Multi-Activity course, dates are available as listed above. Please call 0808 802 8080 for further information and to apply.

Contact Royal British Legion
Haig House
199 Borough High Street
London SE1 1AA

recoveryservice@britishlegion.org.uk



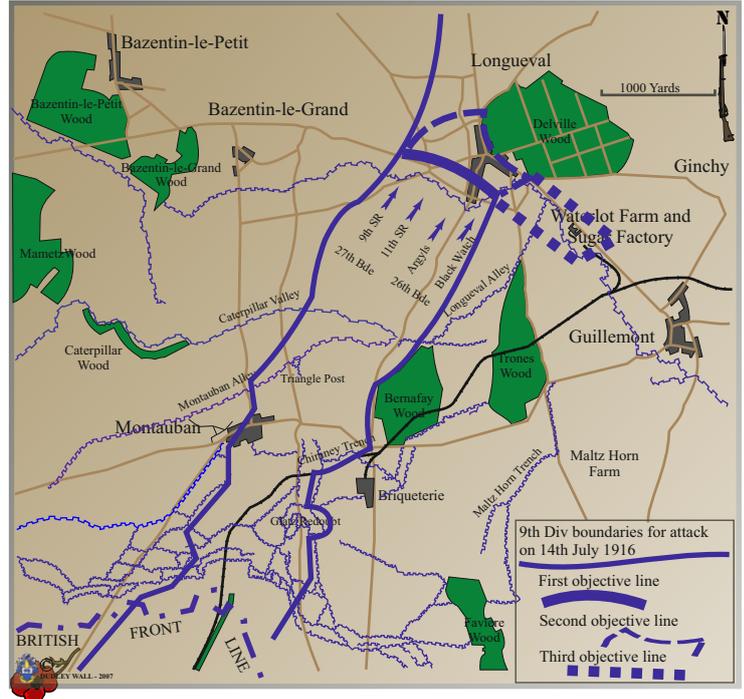
Dates of Multi Day Courses for 2025

- 2nd June - 6th June
- 15th June - 20th June
- 30th June - 4th July
- 7th July - 11th July
- 21st July - 25th July
- 4th August - 8th August
- 18th August - 22nd August
- 26th August - 29th August
- 8th September - 12th September
- 15th September - 19th September
- 29th September - 3rd October

Dates of other Activities for 2025

- Art Workshop On line - 24th June 1300 to 1630
- Battle Back Mural Project
On line - 2nd July
- Residential - 26th and 27th July (at the Centre)
- Theatre Skills Cultural Trip
Residential 15th to 17th July (Brighton)
- Acting Skills Weekend 26th to 27th July
- Creative Writing Workshop
On line 30th July
- Hamilton Cultural Trip
Residential 5th to 7th August (Plymouth)

The First World War started in 1914 with the assassination of Archduke Francis Ferdinand, heir-presumptive to the Austrian and Hungarian thrones, by Gavrilo Princip, a Serb nationalist. It was a military conflict which lasted from 1914 to 1918. It began as a local European war between Austria-Hungary and Serbia on 28th July 1914 and was transformed into a general struggle when Germany declared war against Russia on 1st August 1914. It eventually became a global war involving 32 nations. The Allied countries included Great Britain, France, Russia, Italy and the USA. The coalition (known as the central powers) included Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey and Bulgaria. The fundamental causes of the conflict, were rooted deeply in the European history of the previous century. Particularly in the political and economic policies that prevailed on the continent after 1871 when Germany became a great world power. Germany's strategy for its western front focussed on its forces sweeping through Belgium to outflank and destroy the French. The advance faltered and degenerated into trench warfare along a wide front. Trenches stretching 800km went from the Swiss border to the North Sea.



FORMATION OF THE SA INFANTRY BRIGADE FOR FRANCE

Brigadier General H.T. Lukin was appointed brigade commander and started the job of putting the brigade together. Soldiers of the 1st South African Infantry Brigade were recruited from all four provinces as well as from Rhodesia. The men assembled at Potchefstroom and did their basic training there. The brigade was formed to accommodate four infantry battalions (each one designated as a regiment) and were numbered from one to four. The 1st South African Infantry Regiment, under the command of Lt Col F.S. Dawson, recruited men from the Cape of Good Hope. The 2nd South African Infantry Regiment, under the command of Lt Col W.E.C. Tanner, recruited its men from Natal and the Orange Free State. The 3rd South African Infantry Regiment, under the command of Lt Col E.F. Thackeray, recruited from the Transvaal and Rhodesia

while the 4th South African Regiment, under the command of Lt Col F.A. Jones DSO, recruited from the various South African Scottish regiments such as the Transvaal Scottish, Cape Town Highlanders and others. The strength of the Brigade at the end of training was 160 officers and 5 648 other ranks. From Potchefstroom the Brigade entrained for Cape Town and sailed to England where they were put in barracks at Bordon in Hampshire to undergo a further two months training.

Fighting the Senussi in Egypt. In late 1915 Gaafer Pasha led his Senussi tribe against the Egyptian government. Britain acted and 1 SA Infantry Brigade was deployed to the Western Desert. The 2nd SA Infantry were the first to see

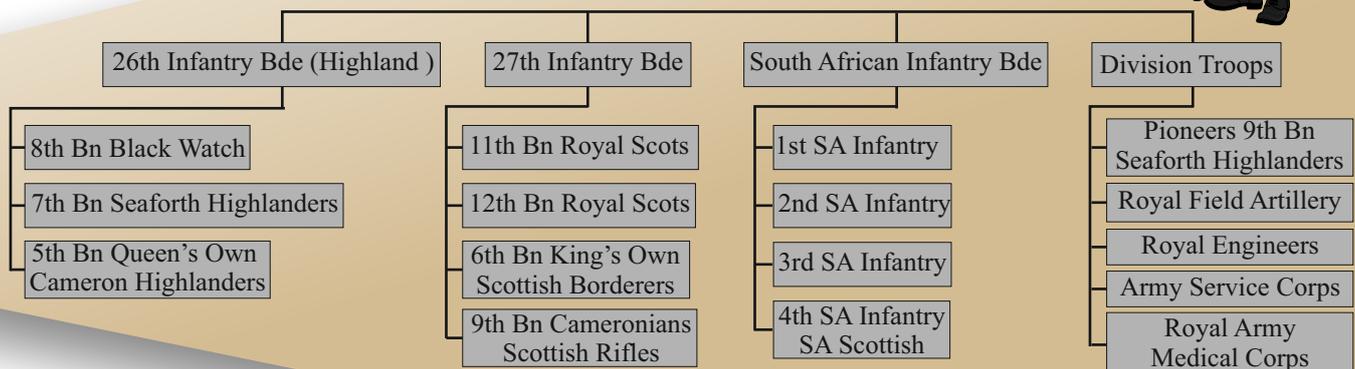


Badge of the 9th Scottish Division

9TH SCOTTISH DIVISION IN FRANCE 1916



Division HQ
(GOC. Maj General W.T. Furse)



action which took place at Halaxin. Other elements of the South African forces were detached to a column led by Brig Gen Lukin and comprised the 1st and 3rd South African Infantry; Dorsetshire Yeomanry; 1st/6th Royal Scots; one squadron of The Royal Buckinghamshire (Yeomanry) Hussars; and the Nottinghamshire Battery of the Royal Horse Artillery. The column were given the coastline to patrol and met with the enemy at Agagia on 26 February 1916. The Senussi were defeated in the first clash. From there the brigade was redeployed to France.

THE WESTERN FRONT

When the Brigade arrived at Marseilles the Brigade was deployed to Armentieres in Flanders. The 4th SA Infantry were delayed as some of its personnel were in quarantine for meningitis. The Brigade conducted training exercises and acclimatised to the European conditions. At this time they were introduced to trench warfare. Once training was complete the Brigade was attached to the 9th Scottish Division to replace the British 28th Brigade. The 28th Brigade had suffered severe casualties during the fighting around Loos in September 1915.



The SA Brigade was given the task of acting as divisional reserve and the 1st SAI were committed to the battle of the village of Longueval while half of the 4th SAI were tasked to capture Waterlot Farm on the 14th July 1916. The next day the SA Brigade were ordered to capture the objective of Delville Wood at all costs. 2 SAI led the attack early in the morning and had all but captured the entire wood when the Germans countered with a very heavy artillery bombardment and with machine guns. Most of the German effort came from the northwest corner of the Woods after a successful counterattack on Longueval. The front line appeared as an indent into the German lines and for this

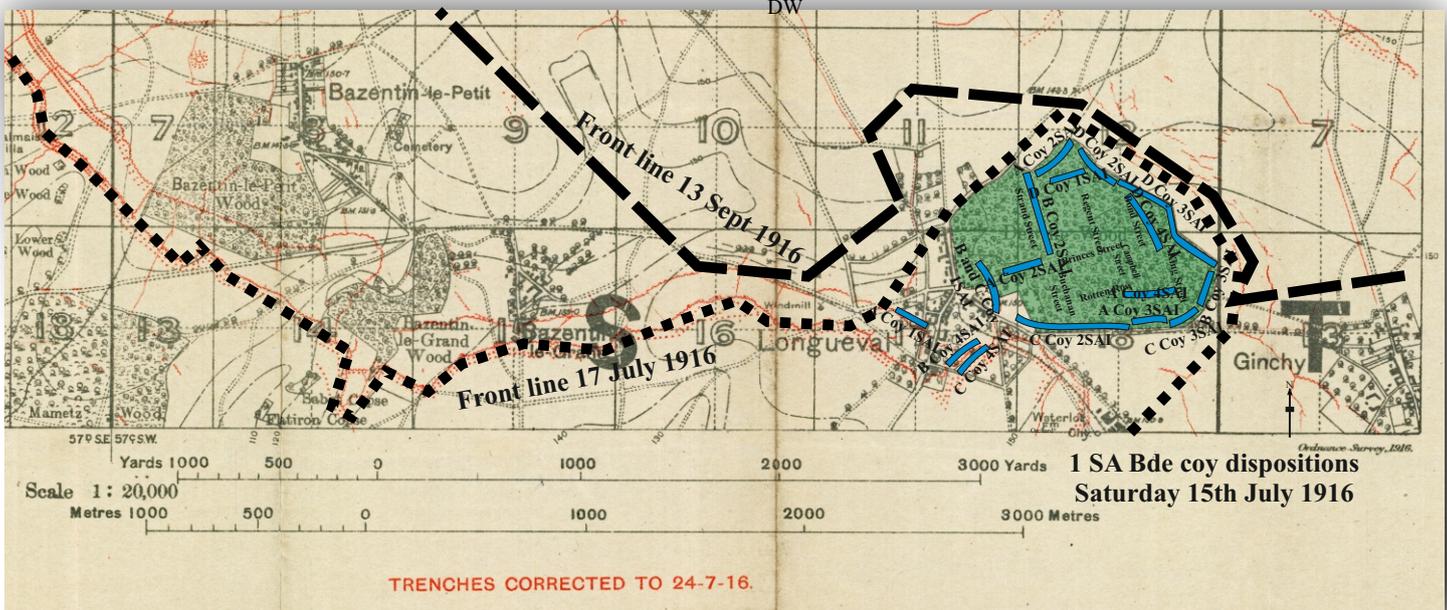
reason the South Africans were surrounded by the Germans to the front and both left and right flanks. It was as if they had overextended themselves in the advance on the Germans.



The German artillery bombardment continued in intensity and South African casualties rose rapidly. The South Africans found it impossible to either advance or withdraw. German troops entered Delville Wood and their artillery bombardment was then lifted. The South Africans dug in with great difficulty amongst the roots and splintered tree trunks and repelled several German counterattacks. The Germans controlled Longueval village and this allowed them to dominate Delville Wood. Delville Wood was the key terrain in the front line for the British, if they were to advance on the front.

Both the Germans in Longueval and the South Africans in Delville Wood were determined to maintain their tactical positions of strength. The British launched two counterattacks to try and support the South African Brigade but the pre bombardment by the British artillery was ineffective and both failed. The Germans then countered the 9th Divisions efforts at the relief of the South Africans with a devastating artillery bombardment using gas and conventional artillery shells. The South Africans had to maintain their positions in Delville Wood and take everything that the Germans threw at them. The result was even more casualties.

After this the British reorganised and counter attacked the German positions, spearheaded by 76 Brigade on the 20th July 1916 and were only then able to relieve the few remaining South Africans in the southern part of the Woods. 3433 South African soldiers went into Delville Wood on the 14th July and only 768 came out at the end.



Malaya was under the control of the British and governed by the High Commissioner for Malaya. The vast majority of government officials were Malayan citizens. In 1951 the High Commissioner Sir Henry Gurney was killed in an ambush and was replaced by General Sir Gerald Templar; a serving army officer. General Templar was also appointed as Director of Military Operations in Malaya in 1952 and holding dual roles was most effective in dealing with the conflict and building the nation, so that it could gain its independence.

The conflict in Malaya started in June 1948 as a result of the efforts of the Malaya Communist Party (MCP) which was established to fight against the invading Japanese during the Second World War. Their desire was to follow the formation of communist organisations in other countries in the region. The MCP were an already established organisation with an underground structure and the British encouraged them to fight against the Japanese. They were mainly Chinese members and supported by the Chinese Communist Party. Their leader was Chin Peng and after the end of the war he decided to gain influence over the people of Malaya. The population consisted of 2,428 000 Malays, 1,885 000 Chinese, 531000 Indians and 12000 Europeans.

Chin Peng established an organisation known as the Malayan Races Liberation Army (MRLA) and recruited mainly Chinese people from Malaya. The organisation enjoyed support from Communist China and were at a strength of approximately 5000 and increased to approximately 8000 at the height of the war. 90% of the members were Chinese and the MRLA was structured along the lines of numbered regiments.

They divided Malaya into three zones for operations. These were the North Zone - 5th Regt operating in Perak / West Kelantan, 8th Regt in Kedah / Perlis, 12th Independent Regt in North Perak / North Kelantan. The Central Zone - 1st regt in Selangor, 2nd Regt in Negri Sembilan, 6th Regt in West Pahang, 7th Regt in South Trengganu and the 10th Regt in Central Pahang. The Southern Zone - 3rd Regt in North Johore / Malacca, 4th Regt in South Johore and the 9th Regt in Central Johore. there were also several independent companies or platoons that were able to deploy as required within each of the areas.

The MRLA used tactics devised by Mao se Tung based on his ten principles of guerrilla warfare.

British troops were deployed to fight the communists and the armed forces of Rhodesia, New Zealand and Australia also

sent troops. All were under command of HQ Overseas Commonwealth Land Forces and in turn commanded Malaya Command and the 17th Gurkha Division. 17th Infantry Division was also under command at times. The Rhodesian forces consisted of the Malayan Scouts (SAS) which became C Sqn 22nd SAS, the Rhodesian African Rifles, the Northern Rhodesia Regiment as well as the 1st and 2nd Bns King's African Rifles from Nyasaland. The RAR were placed under command of 17th Gurkha Division. DW



Hampshire R.B.L. Golf 2025

Now in its 24th year, Hampshire RBL Golf society met on Monday 19th May for the Annual Pairs competition. The Society returned to the lovely Army Golf Course near Farnborough which is a tree-lined and varied parkland style. The course was in its usual great condition though very dry for the time of year and we were warmly welcomed by the staff on a perfect day for golf.

Whilst this event was always run for the benefit of Hampshire RBL Branch and Club members, sadly the entry from that quarter has almost disappeared but there were a few diehard individual RBL players from Old Basing and Farnborough branches and of course golfers from the ARMY GOLF CLUB to keep it going and ensure Poppy funds are raised.

So, with 28 players competing for the Bob Knight perpetual trophy, this year it was lifted by two ladies from Old Basing, Jackie Donovan and Barbara Robertson with an impressive accumulative score of 82 points. Dave Robson and Peter Applegate from The Army club were second scoring 78 points with Pete Fincham and Judith Parslow were in third place with 74 points.

Jim Robertson struck his drive further than anyone else on the 18th fairway, Keith Free took the 8th hole Nearest the Pin prize and the Nearest the Pin-in Two on the 13th went to Mark Wakelin.

The golfers enjoyed a meal and drink after the event before the presentation of the prizes where the collective generously weighed in with raffle prize donations and ticket purchases, with the ensuing draw yielding a very handy £155 for The Poppy Appeal Classic fund.

Well done to all and thank you so much as always for your generosity.

Rick Bourne-Golf Secretary Hampshire RBL
rickbourne@yahoo.com 07900 648675

Team Texas Scramble

3rd June 2025. A fund-raising day for the RBL Poppy Appeal never goes amiss so we held our regular Team Texas scramble event back in April, a format most golfers really appreciate especially after the long winter layoff.

The Waterloo course at Sherfield Oaks near Basingstoke accommodated us on a fine dry day and no fewer than 44 players from the Basingstoke area, some RBL members, turned up to support us.

The winning team, IT TAKES TIME, was a mix of local lads namely Dave and Andy Jones, Darrell Cook and Rick Bourne, who went round in 4 under par. Each received some wine, chocolates and a voucher. In second place just a shot behind were STEVIE'S WONDERS and in third, just a further shot behind were MEX'S MERRY MEN.

The Nearest the Pin bottle of wine prize was won by Chris Godfrey who got closer to the pin than anyone else on the short 15th.

So, with the raffle proceeds added on to the players entry fee contribution, the Old Basing RBL Poppy Appeal benefitted to the tune of £455, a very much appreciated boost to this years running total for our Branch.

Many thanks to all the players for their generosity and to Sherfield Oaks for their continued support.

Rick Bourne- Hampshire RBL Golf secretary



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Postal Address for Hampshire County Committee
Hampshire & IOW MEO (or Name), Royal British Legion, 199 Borough High St, London SE1 1AA

RBL Website: www.BritishLegion.org.uk, County Website: <http://counties.britishlegion.org.uk/counties/hampshire>

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/groups/hantscountyrb/ Facebook Email - Hampshire.web@rbl.community

Poppy Appeal - www.facebook.com/poppy.HampshireRBL

Contact us

It's your newsletter!!!

If anyone has any articles that they would like published in the Newsletter then please contact the editor (Colonel (Retd) Dudley Wall MSM MMM) with any information or articles by the 20th of the month at:

HampshireLinkDW@yahoo.com

ALL LEGION ENQUIRIES

(including Welfare requests) should be directed to the national call centre

0808 802 8080

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County President Col Andrew King

County Vice President Brian C.N. Soffe

County Vice President Robert G. Knight

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County Secretary Melvyn Cole Hampshire.secretary@rbl.community

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Clubs Liaison Paul Holyoake Hampshire.clubs@rbl.community

Webmaster Avril Mitchell Hampshire.web@rbl.community

Committee member Brian Mansi Ringwood.chairman@rbl.community

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County Standard Bearer: Pete Pullin, ppullin@britishlegion.org.uk

Deputy County Standard Bearer: Andy Dawes

County Youth Standard Bearer: Amelie Neal

Ceremonial Support: David Graham, Karen Graham

County Padre: Reverend David Roache

Golf Officer: Rick Bourne

Membership Engagement Officer: Holly Church, Membership Engagement Manager: Martin Pelling

Membership Council Representative: Gerry Nunn

Public Relations Officer: VACANT

Independent Examiners: Ges Brown, Mike Davis

UK Honours Awards: County President, County M.E.O.

Committee members - David Barton, Melvyn Cole, John Davies, Paul Holyoake, Brian Mansi, Avril Mitchell, Tim Russell

County Management Board: Ges Brown, Melvyn Cole, John Davies

Conference Committee: Brian Mansi, Avril Mitchell, Melvyn Cole, Pat Prior, Nigel Thomas, Patti Cunningham

Independent Examiners - G.S. Brown and M. Davis

Cups Sub-Committee: Avril Mitchell, Pat Prior BEM QVRM. Brian Mansi

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