



CANDIDATES' CURRICULUM VITAE

Royal British Legion

Election of National Chairman, National Vice-Chairman
and Trustees 2022

Please read carefully before casting your vote.

Royal British Legion
Election of National Chairman

Mr Rodney (Rod) Alec Bedford

Employment History in Summary

- **Army** Service, Grenadier Guards - 1970-1989
- **Police**, including Special Branch - 1989-2008
- **RBL branch member** 1990-Present
- **RBL Membership Council Member** - 2010-2017
- **RBL Trustee on Board of Trustees** 2017-Present

Born within married quarters at Blackdown, Surrey, into a family with a long military history. On leaving school I joined the Grenadier Guards, serving for 20 years in numerous countries throughout the world, including with the United Nations and four tours in Northern Ireland. One of the many highlights of my military career was as an instructor at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, where I met and married Jackie.

Retired. My hobbies include motorcycling, battlefield touring and traveling.

In 2017 our daughter addressed Conference, Sophie now proudly serves in the British Army, giving me insight into the current issues that our service personnel face today.

My first contact with the Royal British Legion was in 1988, with the Limavady Branch in Northern Ireland. I have since been actively involved in what I believe to be the finest Forces Charity in the World.

In 1990 I joined the Sittingbourne Branch. Having passed the Parade Marshals Course and the Branch Management Course, I was elected as the founding Chairman of the Somme Branch in 2003.

Membership Council. Co-opted in 2010 and elected on two occasions being 2011 and 2014. I served on the Legion Complaints Committee. Chaired the Cups and Shields Working Committee and chaired the Ceremonial Working Group - all worthwhile positions broadening my knowledge of the workings of the Legion.

Board of Trustees. I have now served five years as a Trustee, elected in 2017 re-elected in 2020. My present duties including attending board meetings. I chair the Property Committee, serve as a member of the Branch Property Trust Committee, Events and Remembrance, and the RBL's Diversity and Inclusion Working Group, I represent the RBL as a board member to the Liberation-Route-Europe-Foundation, (Remembering the sacrifice of the liberation of Europe).

My own RBL experience at Branch, Membership Council and Board of Trustee level, with the engagement and experience in numerous Committees as previously highlighted, has undoubtedly given me a broad balanced and informed insight into the complexities, challenges, and responsibilities of the RBL and our collective journey not only within the UK but also our worldwide commitments, to ensure that we continue as the nation's number one membership service charity

My duties have included attending both national and international commemorative services with the Commonwealth and allied countries. This engagement with multiple

veterans' organisations has highlighted and confirmed that the majority recognise the Royal British Legion's reach of membership, engagement, support, and governance as unsurpassed, which is the envy of national and international charities the world over.

What would I like to bring to the Legion if Elected as National Chairman?

The last two years have been exceptional, unfortunately we have had to curtail many events, conferences, and meetings. As our favorite Vera Lynn would sing "We'll meet again" and we will, I would personally like to work towards a more open, honest, and engaging Legion, caring for each other, enabling the collective 'us' the Legion, to look after those who need us most, our beneficiaries.

Past public surveys have shown we are one of the most recognised and trusted charities. At remembrance tide it is evident by the public's generosity, that the nation trusts us to deliver. This we must, and together we will, it's what we do best!

To help our Branches we have eased the governance by the way of County Assisted Branches. We need to build on this to allow our small Branches to retain their standards and continue with local community engagement and very importantly their local Poppy Appeal. Our membership is our greatest asset, and our nation needs to see you!

I would encourage and engage a campaign of recruitment, to increase our membership and engagement with the public, including spending more of our General Fund on growing our membership thus continuing as a key priority of our new membership strategy.

Remembrance is in my DNA, a thread that has run through my professional and personal life, whether it be taking part in the re-burials of those (thankfully) continuously found on the fields of France and Flanders, or actively involved with the many events nationally and internationally such as Normandy the Somme and Arnhem. I would actively encourage membership, attendance at national events and most importantly actively support our local branch commemorative events.

Our very important **Annual Conference** is not only time for serious business, but our time to showcase our Legion, celebrate our achievements and enjoy our comradeship. It is also a very important part of the Governance of the RBL. I would encourage every Branch to engage in every aspect of Conference by attending and voting on motions presented for the good of our charity, and in doing so ensuring that Membership views are heard. It is also a time to hear first-hand the future strategies that will enable our charity to move forward together as One Legion.

For over 50 years of public service in the Army, the Police and the Royal British Legion, my core values have been those of honesty, integrity, responsibility, accountability and comradeship. I am calm and inclusive in deliberation, yet dynamic in action. These qualities have served me well, and will continue to do so, supporting our members, our officers, and our staff, together in our One Legion.

In my candidature as your National Chairman, I offer this and 'Service Not Self'.



Rod Bedford. 6th January 2022

Jason Coward

Candidate for National Chairman, Curriculum Vitae

The Legion's second century will be nothing like our first. We have much to be proud of and to nurture and protect in our history – an unswerving commitment to our beneficiary community, an exceptional grass roots support base of loyal members and volunteers, and an unparalleled role on the National and International stage as custodians of Remembrance.

But I believe that we are also facing some serious, potentially dangerous challenges if we refuse to listen, learn and change over the coming years.

Our Membership has dropped by 50% in the last ten years, and will cease to exist at all if we do not find new ways to attract new, younger more diverse groups to our cause.

It saddens me to say that since joining the Board in 2014, I have never known the Legion to be as disparate and disconnected, with blame and criticism being bandied too rapidly and too loudly instead of pulling together on the issues that matter. Through One Legion and beyond, we need to reconnect and recommit to each other, otherwise we risk reducing our own relevance and authority to each other and to the Nation we serve.

We are on a journey to modernise, with renewed vigour in bringing our new strategy to life, rebuilding our beneficiary experience to be a single minded experience from start to finish, and to bring best in sector practice to our safeguarding, our fundraising, diversity and inclusivity, and our membership offer and experience.

I believe that now, like never before, we need a coalition of the old and the new to rapidly build and deliver the 21st Century Royal British Legion and that is what I would bring if elected as your National Chairman.

I am the proud father of a Fusilier son, who has recently left the Army – this gives me close experience and understanding of what recent leavers are looking for and of how much their experience of military service differs from that of many of you, our current members and our beneficiaries. This has to be a driving force for how we adapt and evolve in these next few years.

I offer eight years of broad and deep experience of the RBL group at the most senior level across the RBL itself, the NMA, Poppyscotland and perhaps most importantly after three years as Vice Chair and now three years as Chair of the Membership Council, proudly representing all of you and your interests. With a 30+ year track record across the commercial and voluntary sectors, as both a board level executive and senior advisor to global companies, I believe that I am well placed to help deliver the change we need as your National Chairman.

If elected, I would pursue five key pledges:

1. To reconnect us all again as One Legion, with better communication and true dialogue.
2. To guarantee transparency and accountability, tackling the 'us and them' culture.
3. To significantly increase Membership numbers by rethinking it for the 21st century.
4. To ensure that the RBL truly reflects the UK and the armed forces we represent, broadening our appeal and relevance to more communities and groups.
5. To always champion our local community work in welfare, remembrance and fundraising.

This is an unique and special organisation doing incredible work for its beneficiary community. I can imagine nothing better nor a bigger honour than being elected to lead it to greater heights in the next three years and to secure its future for this, our second century of service to the Armed Forces community.

EXPERIENCE AND COMPETENCIES

Royal British Legion Board and Committee Experience

- 2014 – date Board of Trustees, with special focus on marketing (eighth year of service).
- 2016 - date Membership Council Chair (2018 – date) and Vice Chair (2016-8)
- Now in my third year as Chair, after three years as Vice Chair.
 - Delivery of new Legion complaints process and oversight of its recent launch.
 - Ongoing review and improvement of the Membership Handbook to make us less bureaucratic and to modernise processes and procedures.
 - Rethinking how we have operated during the pandemic to simplify branch returns process, working to deliver support to our Clubs, and constantly advising on latest safety guidelines to protect members.
 - Experience and oversight across branch finances and funding, Ceremonial Working Group, Legion Complaints Committee, Standard Bearers, County Chairs and Committees, as well as Membership Council elections and working groups.
- 2016 to date Board Trustee, National Memorial Arboretum
- Fifth year of service at the NMA.
 - Supported and helped oversee the building and launch of Aspects.
 - Advising on marketing, brand and improved visitor experience issues.
- 2018 - date Governance Committee
- Providing advice and guidance on the Royal Charter, Trustee election processes and appointments, and Board of Trustees effectiveness.
- 2020 to date Chair, Poppyscotland
- Chairing the Poppyscotland Board of Trustees, with board oversight of welfare, fundraising, marketing, the Lady Haig Poppy Factory and campaigning.

I have also been heavily involved in the shaping and development of two five year strategies, most recently the One Legion strategy, as well as the development and launch of 'Live On' and our new, digitally friendly logo.

Professional

From 2012 to 2014, I worked as an Executive Director at Barnardo's, helping to rethink their fundraising, marketing and retail teams into one commercial operation. This brought a large jump in donations and shop profits but also more corporate supporters, such as John Lewis.

My career has always been focused on commercial results and building successful teams. Now retired, I have worked as an executive board level director and advisor for companies such as Sky, News Corporation, Virgin Media, Pearson and Sony Entertainment.

Personal

Although still a very proud born and bred Northerner, I now live in Bath. I am married with three sons, one of whom was a serving Fusilier until early 2020, so I fully understand the scale of the challenge we face recruiting this next generation of Legion members. Passions include rugby, reading and food and drink.

The Legion has been a constant throughout my life, from hearing of the good it did after the deaths of two teenage family members in WW1, through to my father's stories of laying the wreath at Remembrance as a young boy in Bolton, as part of the local brass band. The Legion has always been there, and it always must be.

Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Joseph FALZON OSJ BEM

DOB: 1st December 1946 (Age 75)

Military Career

I joined the Royal Regiment of Artillery as a Junior Leader at the age of 16 in 1963 and saw service in the United Kingdom, West Germany, Northern Ireland and Hong Kong. I was awarded the British Empire Medal in 1973 for services whilst serving with my Regiment in the Ardoyne, Belfast. I was commissioned from the ranks in 1982 and subsequently served as a staff officer in several Headquarters and as a Quartermaster of two discrete Royal Artillery Regiments. In 1996 I was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and appointed to command a major support unit. My last posting was as a Senior Staff Officer responsible for Personnel Matters with the Defence Academy in Shrivenham.

Head of Governance and Administration - The Royal British Legion

On retirement from the British Army in 2001, after 37-years of service, I joined the Royal British Legion as the Head of Governance & Administration. As Secretary to the then National Council (now the Board of Trustees) and the Executive Board, I established the role as the nexus of communication for the National Officers, Trustees, the Directors, County Chairmen, Legion staff and other Ex-Service Charities. My responsibilities included the co-ordination of all aspects of Annual Conference, managing the corporate insurance and overseeing the Legion's international affairs. As Project Manager of the relocation of the Head Office within London, I delivered a £26m project on time and within budget. In June 2010 (after a nine-year tenure), I opted for early retirement and transferred my Legion Membership from the Wiltshire County Holding Branch to the Stapleford & Berwick Branch.

Trustee – The Royal British Legion

I was elected as a Trustee in May 2014. During my first three-year tenure I was a Member of the Property Committee and the Branch Property Trusts Trustee Committee. I was re-elected in 2017 and was entrusted with the Chairmanship of the Property Committee and the RBL International Committee (from 2018), I was appointed National Vice Chairman in September 2019 and Director of Poppyscotland in November 2019.

General Particulars

Married to Josephine for 53 years, with two sons in their late forties. We live in Salisbury, Wiltshire, close to our four grandchildren. We are both involved with several charities locally and enjoy traveling to other countries to enhance our knowledge of diverse cultures.

Supplementary Information

- Director of Poppyscotland
- Council Member for Malta, The Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League
- Provincial Councillor, The Salisbury Circle of The Catenian Association
- Chairman of the Artillery Clerks' Association since 1998
- Officer of the Sovereign Order of St John of Jerusalem, Knights of Malta

Personal Statement and Pledge: To serve as the National Chairman of The Royal British Legion would be a huge privilege which comes with considerable responsibilities, obligations, and expectations. I look forward to the prospect of leading the Board of Trustees to ensure that the Legion remains respected, relevant and cherished by the armed forces community, our beneficiaries, our members in UK and overseas, our band of volunteers and the nation. My primary intent is to sustain and advance our mission, integrity, traditions, values and treasured reputation as a national institution. I pledge to conduct myself properly in word and action; to act reasonably and responsibly; to maintain confidentiality on sensitive and confidential matters; to analyze information and when appropriate challenge constructively; to make collective decisions and stand by them; to support initiatives promoting the Legion and to influence others to be part of its work and help it to realise its goals. This pledge extends to such areas as membership retention and recruitment, relationships with former Trustees, donors and supporters, and interaction with civic and military leaders nationally and in the international veterans' arena. Most of all, I pledge to continue to work the punishing hours that the role demands. In sum, I am a vocational Legionnaire, a veteran and a family man, tied by a fierce sense of allegiance to the values of loyalty, duty and honesty which I hold dear.

Royal British Legion

Election of National Vice-Chairman

Lynda Atkins - Curriculum Vitae

My time as a Trustee and County Chair has shown me that the Membership of the Legion is its greatest strength. We need to find better ways to work across all parts of our organisation so that we truly are 'One Legion'. We can, and do, achieve great things together but much more is possible. In particular, I want to see much better communications and engagement with our Members who have so much to offer in our work to support our beneficiaries and to champion Remembrance. My life so far has given me many opportunities to work with and help others: being able to serve The Royal British Legion at the highest level as its National Vice Chairman would be the greatest opportunity yet.

I come from a service family. My Dad was in the RAF so I grew up living at RAF stations in the UK and around Europe. I have always felt at home with the forces, as for much of my life I lived as part of the Armed Forces Family. ***I know first-hand all the benefits and challenges of life in a service family.***

Uniformed Service

When the time came for me to look for a career, applying to join the RAF seemed a natural thing to do. In 1981 began a short service commission as an Admin officer. During my time in the RAF I served at Lyneham while it was the UK airhead for the Falklands War and then in Northern Ireland, where I was the RAF Schools Liaison Officer for the province, based at RAF Aldergrove. My job took me to quite a few areas which would otherwise have been out of bounds and I had the privilege of working closely with members of the other services. Other posts included working at the RAF Personnel Management Centre at Innsworth, recruiting in the South East of England and finally running the accounts office at the RAF College, Cranwell. I left as a flight lieutenant after serving for 8 years.

When I left the RAF I joined the NHS as a personnel manager and also joined the TA. As I was living and working in Northampton, that was 118 Recovery Company, a REME TA unit based there. They didn't put me in charge of the big vehicles, but I did command HQ Company, which made sure people got fed and paid. I served for 3 years with the TA before work got too busy for me to give enough time to TA training.

My time in the RAF and then the TA gave me a set of skills which I have used throughout my life and enormous respect for all those who serve.

Working in the NHS

On leaving the RAF I put my forces training to good use and qualified as a Chartered Personnel Manager. I worked in the NHS as a Director of Personnel and then as Director of Corporate Development which combined planning and expanding services as well as managing staff. Having worked in acute hospital and community services, I transferred into the Department of Health in the late 1990s. My final hospital-based job was a secondment from there as Director of Operations at Stoke Mandeville Hospital in 2001. While at the Department of Health, I supervised health services across several counties and led a team helping to get new hospitals built across South East England. That included working with ministers as a senior civil servant at the Department of Health as well as lawyers, construction companies and banks.

I was able to learn how to work in and with complicated organisations during my time in the NHS and at the Department of Health, balancing lots of different points of view, but always with the people we were there to help – patients and their families – at the front of our thinking. I also had first-hand experience of working with national politicians and how complicated that can get!

In 2003 the Department of Health was reorganized and I chose to take redundancy. I took the opportunity to set up my own business working on planning hospital construction projects. I also stood, successfully, for election to our local town council and later, in 2008 was also elected as an independent county councillor. As a town councillor I was privileged to be chosen as Mayor of Wallingford, the town I live in, in 2005 and 2015. As a county councillor I was able to work with The Royal British Legion and other service charities on topics such as the Armed Forces Covenant and was appointed as the Military Champion for RAF Benson. I stood down as County Councillor in September 2019 when I was deeply honoured to be appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Oxfordshire: representing Her Majesty The Queen on behalf of the Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire. I am the Military Liaison for the Oxfordshire Lieutenancy and lead on The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. I'm also a member of the Steering Group for the Oxfordshire Civil Military Partnership Board and the County Chair for the South East Reserve Forces and Cadets Association (SERFCA).

Over my 15 years as a councillor I developed an understanding of how local government works and how it can be encouraged to work with veterans and the armed forces. As a Deputy Lieutenant I liaise with all the military units in a county where more than most people think of the Armed Forces are based.

My business opportunities slowly declined over the years, so in 2012 I was offered and accepted a job working for our local MP. I remained independent politically and was responsible for much of the case work – particularly the more complicated and difficult cases – that cropped up. ***I learned how complicated some people's problems can be, and how different agencies need to work together to really deliver the help that is needed.*** I did that job until 2015 when, having been a member of the Legion for many years, I became the Oxfordshire County Chair, a role I was honoured to hold until May 2019 when I became a co-opted Trustee before being elected as a Trustee in 2020. In 2016 I left the Town Council for family reasons in order to free up some of my time and later closed down my company. I have, along with the SSAFA Oxfordshire Chairman, run the county Veterans Forum for the past 4 years, bringing together all those in Oxfordshire who work with veterans, from local government, the NHS, charities and the armed forces. That is going from strength to strength and each year more people join us as they see the value of working together for those we serve.

As a Trustee of The Royal British Legion I am also Vice Chair of the Membership Council and a Trustee of the National Memorial Arboretum. Both roles enable me to work with staff and members to do the best we can to support the Legion.

In summary ...

My career has never worked out the way I thought it would, but my service in the RAF and TA helped to prepare me for both the good experiences and the challenges. I hope it also gave me the experience and skills that I hope will help me to be a successful National Vice Chairman for The Royal British Legion.

Paul Harris QGM

Personal Statement

You will note that I have two election statements for 2022, this one for re-election as a Trustee and the other for election as your National Vice Chairman. I seek your vote for both roles. By May 2022, I will have served on the Board of Trustees for four years 3 months, initially by co-option in 2018 and then by election in 2019. As a Trustee I have experienced the challenges of recent years, been part of the extremely difficult decision making that has to take place, often disputed by those perhaps not in possession of the full facts. The changes that were implemented late 2019, early 2020 saw the RBL come out of the pandemic in mid-2021 in a much stronger position than its contemporaries, able to help a wider range of beneficiaries in a much more cohesive manner. The role requires absolute personal integrity. I acknowledge that there is always more to do and I believe communication is key, particularly where change is concerned, but always within the legal constraints which the Trustees and the Charity are subject to. Along with overseeing the strategic direction of the Charity, continuing the implementation of our One Legion Strategy and executing the results of the Governance Review, there are three things that I wish, as a Trustee, to address in the next three years:

1. Ensure that the RBL remains relevant in the minds of the public which leads to retaining their moral and financial support.
2. Increase the attraction of the Charity to all generations by exploring individual membership running alongside the current requirement to be a Branch member. The younger generations think and act in a different manner and require a different membership or volunteer experience and
3. Embrace diversity and inclusion; ensuring that the RBL meets the needs of, and understands, the whole veteran community.

RBL Experience

Like many of you, I have been an RBL member for many years. My motivation to become involved with the RBL centres on “giving back” to those who need help after, or because of, their Service. My own Service was generally overseas where the opportunity to join in was limited, either due to location or to pace of work. However, on settling back in the UK, my RBL journey began with my local branch. I now have substantial leadership and management experience within TRBL covering all levels of TRBL from Branch, through County Chairmanship, Membership Council Representative to the Board of Trustees. I have experience in dealing with most RBL activities including welfare, finance, membership, Remembrance, Legion clubs, understanding issues related to complaints, property lease issues and the implementation of specialist policies. I have been a member of five of the seven major committees of the Board of Trustees; previously on Finance, Governance and Membership Council (as a Trustee I was appointed vice chair); currently on Audit & Risk plus Property (purchase and sale of commercial buildings). During the co-option period of my Trusteeship I took up the role of strategic adviser to the Directorate for Membership and Volunteering, the RBL

Project Management Office and the Veterans Gateway. I have experience of subsidiaries of the RBL Group; previously a Trustee and director of the National Memorial Arboretum and currently Chairman of the RBL- Republic of Ireland (and chair of its related company) plus Chairman of the Irish Ex Servicemen's Trust which is a Foreign & Commonwealth Office funded Trust, managed through the RBL. I have successfully conducted informal resolutions at both Branch and County level and, as a Trustee, been both a member and chairman of Investigation Panels on behalf of the Legion Complaints Committee. All of these roles result from being a Trustee; all require time to carry out and therefore my current commitment to the charity is significant and I willingly give that time.

Board and Leadership experience

My most recent board experience has been the 4 years 3 months that I have served with the RBL with the roles and responsibilities identified above. Simultaneously I am currently the Mayor and leader of my local Council. This comprises objective councillors with no political affiliations. Councillors are strong and independently minded, some with robust and successful business backgrounds. I have led this Council through the recent difficult times. It requires significant people skills to get individuals to work together for the common good and we have been successful. I have overseen a review of all of the Councils governing documents and policies, ensuring that the Local Government code of conduct was adopted by the Council for the first time, the equality and diversity policy was fit for purpose and that a third party expert company was engaged to deliver our health and safety, data protection and information security support. I was deputy mayor and deputy Council leader during the early part of the pandemic and led over 100 of the Towns community resilience response volunteers, ensuring that every one of the over 12,000 residents had the support they required. In the latter part of my military career I was the armed forces representative on the National Council of the Institute of Explosives Engineers 2002-2006; after returning from the USA, I was elected back to the Council for the period Apr 2009-2016. I chaired the legal & procedural, education and training committees at various times and was vice president of the Institute for two and a half years Dec 13-Apr 16. I was a board member of the UK Standards Setting Body for Explosives, Munitions and Search occupations 2003-06 and 2009-16, being board chairman 2009-11. I am a graduate of the RBL National Leadership Course

Career Highlights

I completed 32 years commissioned service deploying on Operations in the Middle East, Africa and Northern Ireland. My Counter-IED skills have been well recognised. I have experience working in the Joint Service and International arenas. I have served an exchange tour with the Canadian Forces, including the African operational experience; three years as a liaison officer in the Pentagon (being present during the 9/11 attack); been a specialist adviser to the Governor of Bermuda; worked on the UK Joint Staff and as a specialist advisor to the Multinational Corps Commanding General in Iraq. I was head hunted to be a civilian advisor to NATO, based in the USA. Subsequently I became a Director for a multinational Defence Sector company; finally owning and running a successful management consultancy business. I hold the Queens Gallantry Medal, a mention in despatches and the US Army Commendation Medal.

Before retirement I held fellowships with the Chartered Management Institute, Institute of Leadership and Management and membership of the Institute of Explosives Engineers.

I have the experience for the role and seek your support for re-election as a Trustee for our charity.

Lieutenant Colonel David Ian Whimpenny CMgr FCMI

(Membership Number 1303617)

Curriculum Vitae – National Vice Chairman

Place & Date of Birth:

Conisbrough, South Yorkshire 11 December 1960

Education:

Mexborough Grammar School
Sunderland University
The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst
Oxford Brookes University

Employment:

I Commissioned from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in 1985 and retired from active service in December 2017. I am now

Royal British Legion Service and Training:

Member Y Services (Garats Hay) Branch	1998 to date
Member St James Branch	2012 to date
Member Conisbrough and Denaby Main Branch	2014 to date
Branch President Services (Garats Hay) Branch	2004 to 2017
Member National Branches District Committee	2003 to 2012
Member National Branches District Conference committee	2005 to 2009
Chairman National Branches District Conference committee	2009 to 2012
Vice Chairman National Branches District	2012 to 2013
Royal British Legion Board of Trustees	2013 to date
Chairman Annual Conference Committee	2013 to 2014
Chairman Membership Council	2014 to 2018
Chairman National Memorial Arboretum Board of Trustees	2014 to date
Member Governance Committee	2018 to date
Conference Committee Course	2004
County Management Course	2011
Qualified Panel Member	2011
National Leadership Course	2013

Biography:

As a retired Army Officer, I remain passionate in my support for The Royal British Legion and its delivery of assistance to the whole military community which I witnessed throughout my service career and continue to see in my current employment with the Civil Service. In the latter years of my military service, I was able to work alongside the Legion in its delivery of programmes such as The Battle Back Centre, Personal Recovery Centres, and the Campaign on Hearing Loss all of which highlighted the relevance of the Legion to today's military community and furthered my resolve to help ensure the Legion goes from strength to strength.

Throughout my time as a trustee, I have been honoured to meet, listen to and learning from many you, at a range of events from Annual Conference to local meetings, national events and services of remembrance and I feel hugely privileged to have done so. You have highlighted the importance of our membership in the delivery of all that we undertake, and I advocate a strong active membership with an increased role in supporting the aims and objectives of the charity as a fundamental requirement to its continued success in to our second century. The coming years will bring huge challenges for us all as we strive to ensure the Legion continues to deliver for our beneficiaries as we enter our second hundred years in support of our military community.

I have been privileged to serve The Royal British Legion a trustee for nine years during which time I have served as Chairman of the Conference Committee, Chairman of the Membership Council and Chairman of the National Memorial Arboretum Board of Trustees and have been a member of the Governance Committee.

As Chairman of the Membership Council, I lead the expansion of the Council increasing the number of elected representatives to ensure that all our membership was equitably represented ensuring that the all-important voice of our members was heard at Board level.

My tenure as Chairmanship of the National Memorial Arboretum has seen the successful fundraising for and the delivery of the national award-winning Remembrance Centre and Aspects events pavilion in addition to the development of the site into a year-round multi award winning attraction where the nation remembers.

During my tenure with the Board of Trustees and as Chairman of the National Memorial Arboretum I have been honoured and privileged to represent The Royal British Legion both at home and abroad. I have consistently extolled its values and the unique contribution that our members give when talking to a member of public or at the highest levels of government or to members of the Royal Family.

From my service in the Army and latterly as a Civil Servant I am aware that change is never easy but is necessary for an organisation to continue to develop. As I near retirement I have the time, energy and enthusiasm required to increase my support for the legion our beneficiaries and members through the next period of change and I believe that with the wealth of experience I have gained over the past nine years I am ready to take on the undoubted challenges that serving as National Vice Chairman and supporting our newly elected chairman will bring as together we all strive to build a bright and enduring future for the Legion.

I therefore seek your support to serve as your National Vice Chairman while I have the dynamism and unbounded enthusiasm to carry out the role as effectively as it must be; while always promising to continue to listen to your ideas and to act upon them in the best interests our beneficiaries, of our members and the Royal British Legion as a whole.

Royal British Legion

Election of Trustees



JOHN MARK BOISSON

D.O.B: 11 April 1968

Curriculum Vita

Vision Statement:

John's passion to serve the Armed Forces community with the Legion is drawn from a powerful sense of wanting to give back to our Servicemen and women, and their families who have given so much through their service and he is certain he can do this most effectively as a Royal British Legion trustee. Working together with the other trustees he hopes to make a real difference by playing a fundamental role in the strategic development of the Legion with an underpinning focus on ensuring our sustainability.

When acted out John sees the collaborative 'One Legion' approach as being a significant force multiplier that can deliver enhanced welfare services for our beneficiaries and improved support for our people who facilitate those services. He is passionate about growing the RBL's Vision as extensively as possible through supporting branches to work actively in their local communities for the benefit of their Armed Forces people.

John is driven to be a Legion trustee because he wholeheartedly believes in our values and cause, our people and our culture, and he believes he has the appropriate qualities to be able to positively contribute to making the correct strategic decisions for our charity at this very important time in our history.

RBL Roles: Branch Secretary 2009 – 2014
 Principal County Recruiting Officer 2014 – 2015
 County Training Officer 2015 – 2016
 Norfolk County Chairman 2016 – 2019
 East Anglia & Essex Membership Council Representative 2019 - present

RBL Courses: Branch Management course 2012
 County Recruiting Office course 2015
 County Training Officer course 2015
 County Management course 2015
 Qualified Panel Member course 2016
 National Leadership course 2016
 Recruiting Advisors Instructors course 2016
 Caseworker course 2017

Vocational Quals; National Council for Voluntary Organisations – Charity Trustee course
Level 7 Certificate in Strategic Management and Leadership
Level 5 Diploma in Management and Leadership
Level 3 Award in Assessing Vocationally Related Achievement
Prince2 Project Management
NEBOSH National General Certificate in Occupational Health and Safety
Joint Service Mountain Expedition Leader
A Level History
A Level Geography

Career History:

John is currently serving in the Army and has, so far, completed 36 years' Service in the Guards Division. During this period, he has been on numerous operation tours in all the main theatres of operation that the Army has been involved in. Two years ago, John transferred from regular to reserve service and took up a Civil Service role that has command responsibilities for two complex Air Weapons Ranges on the East Coast.

Since joining the Legion John has taken up active roles as Branch Secretary, Principal County Recruiting Officer, and County Chairman, before moving to the Membership Council where he now is Chairman of the Branch Community Support Working Group. He has also been a member of the Youth Committee and Ceremonial Working Group, as well as completing several consultancy roles including supporting parts of the Training Review and the rewriting of the Membership Youth Policy and County Recruitment Officers' Handbook.

Paul Harris QGM

Personal Statement

You will note that I have two election statements for 2022, this one for re-election as a Trustee and the other for election as your National Vice Chairman. I seek your vote for both roles. By May 2022, I will have served on the Board of Trustees for four years 3 months, initially by co-option in 2018 and then by election in 2019. As a Trustee I have experienced the challenges of recent years, been part of the extremely difficult decision making that has to take place, often disputed by those perhaps not in possession of the full facts. The changes that were implemented late 2019, early 2020 saw the RBL come out of the pandemic in mid-2021 in a much stronger position than its contemporaries, able to help a wider range of beneficiaries in a much more cohesive manner. The role requires absolute personal integrity. I acknowledge that there is always more to do and I believe communication is key, particularly where change is concerned, but always within the legal constraints which the Trustees and the Charity are subject to. Along with overseeing the strategic direction of the Charity, continuing the implementation of our One Legion Strategy and executing the results of the Governance Review, there are three things that I wish, as a Trustee, to address in the next three years:

1. Ensure that the RBL remains relevant in the minds of the public which leads to retaining their moral and financial support.
2. Increase the attraction of the Charity to all generations by exploring individual membership running alongside the current requirement to be a Branch member. The younger generations think and act in a different manner and require a different membership or volunteer experience and
3. Embrace diversity and inclusion; ensuring that the RBL meets the needs of, and understands, the whole veteran community.

RBL Experience

Like many of you, I have been an RBL member for many years. My motivation to become involved with the RBL centres on “giving back” to those who need help after, or because of, their Service. My own Service was generally overseas where the opportunity to join in was limited, either due to location or to pace of work. However, on settling back in the UK, my RBL journey began with my local branch. I now have substantial leadership and management experience within TRBL covering all levels of TRBL from Branch, through County Chairmanship, Membership Council Representative to the Board of Trustees. I have experience in dealing with most RBL activities including welfare, finance, membership, Remembrance, Legion clubs, understanding issues related to complaints, property lease issues and the implementation of specialist policies. I have been a member of five of the seven major committees of the Board of Trustees; previously on Finance, Governance and Membership Council (as a Trustee I was appointed vice chair); currently on Audit & Risk plus Property (purchase and sale of commercial buildings). During the co-option period of my Trusteeship I took up the role of strategic adviser to the Directorate for Membership and Volunteering, the RBL

Project Management Office and the Veterans Gateway. I have experience of subsidiaries of the RBL Group; previously a Trustee and director of the National Memorial Arboretum and currently Chairman of the RBL- Republic of Ireland (and chair of its related company) plus Chairman of the Irish Ex Servicemen's Trust which is a Foreign & Commonwealth Office funded Trust, managed through the RBL. I have successfully conducted informal resolutions at both Branch and County level and, as a Trustee, been both a member and chairman of Investigation Panels on behalf of the Legion Complaints Committee. All of these roles result from being a Trustee; all require time to carry out and therefore my current commitment to the charity is significant and I willingly give that time.

Board and Leadership experience

My most recent board experience has been the 4 years 3 months that I have served with the RBL with the roles and responsibilities identified above. Simultaneously I am currently the Mayor and leader of my local Council. This comprises objective councillors with no political affiliations. Councillors are strong and independently minded, some with robust and successful business backgrounds. I have led this Council through the recent difficult times. It requires significant people skills to get individuals to work together for the common good and we have been successful. I have overseen a review of all of the Councils governing documents and policies, ensuring that the Local Government code of conduct was adopted by the Council for the first time, the equality and diversity policy was fit for purpose and that a third party expert company was engaged to deliver our health and safety, data protection and information security support. I was deputy mayor and deputy Council leader during the early part of the pandemic and led over 100 of the Towns community resilience response volunteers, ensuring that every one of the over 12,000 residents had the support they required. In the latter part of my military career I was the armed forces representative on the National Council of the Institute of Explosives Engineers 2002-2006; after returning from the USA, I was elected back to the Council for the period Apr 2009-2016. I chaired the legal & procedural, education and training committees at various times and was vice president of the Institute for two and a half years Dec 13-Apr 16. I was a board member of the UK Standards Setting Body for Explosives, Munitions and Search occupations 2003-06 and 2009-16, being board chairman 2009-11. I am a graduate of the RBL National Leadership Course

Career Highlights

I completed 32 years commissioned service deploying on Operations in the Middle East, Africa and Northern Ireland. My Counter-IED skills have been well recognised. I have experience working in the Joint Service and International arenas. I have served an exchange tour with the Canadian Forces, including the African operational experience; three years as a liaison officer in the Pentagon (being present during the 9/11 attack); been a specialist adviser to the Governor of Bermuda; worked on the UK Joint Staff and as a specialist advisor to the Multinational Corps Commanding General in Iraq. I was head hunted to be a civilian advisor to NATO, based in the USA. Subsequently I became a Director for a multinational Defence Sector company; finally owning and running a successful management consultancy business. I hold the Queens Gallantry Medal, a mention in despatches and the US Army Commendation Medal.

Before retirement I held fellowships with the Chartered Management Institute, Institute of Leadership and Management and membership of the Institute of Explosives Engineers.

I have the experience for the role and seek your support for re-election as a Trustee for our charity.

LINDA S. KEMENY FCT - CV

Professional Qualification: Member, Association of Corporate Treasurers (MCT) 1984
Fellow, Association of Corporate Treasurers (FCT) 1991

Business Career:

1978-1987 Assistant Group Treasurer, Costain Group Plc

1987-1989 Treasurer, Costain Engineering & Construction Division

1989-2003 Group Treasurer, Thames Water Plc

Key Achievements:

-Structured and led the Group Treasury function for the newly-privatised FTSE 100 company, organising and recruiting the team of professionals, writing Treasury Policies, managing debt, investments, foreign exchange, insurance and major project finance.

-Established a US\$4 billion funding facility to issue corporate bonds, commercial paper and other financial products.

-Issued first medium-term bonds in the US market for a UK water company.

-Led the global finance for the US\$800 million privately run Izmit Water Treatment Project

2002-2006 Financing Strategy Director, RWE Thames Water

Key Achievements:

-Invited by Michel Camdessus, former IMF Managing Director, to join a Panel of global water company professionals to develop a blueprint for Financing Water Infrastructure to increase water supplies in the developing world which, in 2002, met with international banks and construction companies in Paris, Manila, Washington, The Hague and Johannesburg to discuss its findings which were presented to the World Bank.

Public Service Following Early Retirement in 2007:

2008-2011 Chairman, Alzheimer's Society Woking Branch.

Key Achievements:

-Established a purpose-built 125-places per week Alzheimer's Day Centre in Woking funded by a National Lottery grant submitted jointly with Friends of the Elderly.

-Led the Branch to win the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in 2010, presented at a ceremony attended by HRH Princess Alexandra.

2010-2016 Trustee, Woking Association of Voluntary Service, until wound up.

2011-2017 Elected Surrey County Councillor (SCC)

2012 Vice Chairman, SCC Adult Social Care Select Committee

2012-2017 SCC Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Educational Achievement

Chairman, Corporate Parenting Board; Chairman, Surrey Education Trust, responsible for a budget of £780 million.

2015-2017 SCC Statutory Lead Member for Children's Services

Key Achievements:

-To tackle falling Ofsted judgments, secured £10 million from Council budget, agreed by all County Councillors, to invest in School Improvement which resulted over 4 years in 95% of Surrey schools being judged 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted.

-With pressure on school places across the County, led the programme to build 13,500 new school places at a cost of £350 million.

-Secured an additional £40 million of capital funding for the school place programme direct from the Department for Education following meetings with the Secretary of State.

2017 Trustee, Citizens Advice Woking.

Key Achievements:

- Developing and presenting 3-year rolling Business Plan.
- Completing National Citizens Advice GDPR annual training.

2019 Trustee, The Howard Partnership Trust (THPT)
Vice-Chairman, Standards & Performance Committee,
Member, Business & Finance Committee
Member, Remuneration Committee

2020 Trustee, Learning & Inspiration for Tomorrow (LIFT Partnership)
- Merged with THPT March 2021

Training courses undertaken in Safeguarding, Academies Financial Management, General Annual Grant (GAG) pooling.

2017 Joined the Royal British Legion, Bisley, Knaphill & West End Branch.

Membership Number: 19294444

-Attended GP90 in Ypres

2019 Appointed Poppy Appeal Organiser and joined the Branch Management Committee.

2020 Also acted as Poppy Appeal Organiser for the former Woking Branch.

-Elected Branch Secretary, recruited 4 new Branch Members during 2021.

2021 Raised almost **£27,000** so far for the 2021/22 Poppy Appeal, organising 42 volunteers to man our stand at Sainsbury's Brookwood for the duration of the Appeal, plus circulating 140 collection tins to schools and businesses in the community. The Poppy Appeal launch with photographs was covered by the local newspaper.

Personal Statement

While I am aware that my experience with the Royal British Legion is limited and I only formally joined in 2017, my husband, who is Surrey County Vice-Chairman, has also been a Branch Chairman for many years, and I have always actively supported him in the management and running of the Branch. I also helped with the annual Poppy Appeal for some years before taking over as PAO. My father was a lifelong RBL Member and I grew up within the atmosphere of an active local British Legion Club. I believe I have very strong interpersonal skills and capabilities which would stand me in excellent stead if I were to be elected as an RBL Trustee. I am particularly interested in all aspects of Fundraising including the Poppy Appeal, Membership and Volunteer development, and Governance but I would look forward to working for and supporting the organisation in any way which was considered appropriate to my background.

I have had an enhanced DBS check certificate for many years, and I also hold a shotgun licence for clay pigeon shooting.

Linda Kemeny,
10th January 2022.

James (Jim) McDermott

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Motivated individual with developed business acumen and broad experience across management, training and research roles. Highly adaptable and self-motivated leader with proven ability to work well with anyone. Offering strong leadership and analytical strengths to identify solutions to challenging problems. Collaborative team player with excellent interpersonal, communication and conflict resolution skills.

WORK HISTORY

- **Independent Academic Researcher** (2018 to date)

Researching armed forces veterans. Conducting peer reviews. Advisory Board Member, Veterans & Families Research Hub (Anglia Ruskin University)

- **Assoc Tutor – University of Leicester** (2007-2018)

Supervising MSc students. Developing course materials. Veterans research.

- **Head of Training, Institute of Packaging, Melton Mowbray.** (1990 – 2001)

Directing training and examinations policy, Developed level 5 Diploma. Concurrently Chairman of the World Packaging Organization (WPO) Education committee, Promoted UK packaging technology worldwide. Maintained up to date knowledge on technical education and training legislation, regulations and technology. Prevented non-compliance losses by constantly updating standards. Developed business and organized and delivered seminars, conferences and trade exhibitions in Russia, The Phillipines, Barbados, Iran, Jordan, Peru, Argentina, Japan, Thailand and Turkey.

- **Key Training Ltd – Reading, Berks.** (1985 -1990)

Internal auditor then Area manager, Operations manager and National Training Manager for Key Group of Companies managing 28 training centre's UK wide. Checking facilities, employee work and service levels to maintain compliance with company and industry standards. Seconded to Barclays Clearing Bank in 1988-1989 and successfully developed a computer-based training programme.

- **Director - ComputoTech Ltd - Stoke on Trent, Staffs.** (1983 – 1985)

Negotiated government (MSC) contracts to deliver training in electronics manufacture and clerical skills. Developed, equipped and opened a new centre. Company subsumed into the Key Group in 1985.

- **British Army - Mainly Abroad.** (1958 – 1983)

1958-1967 REME attached 11th Hussars (PAO) and Royal Maltese Artillery Workshop Clerk (Progress Chaser). Radio Operator (REME)
1967-1983 Intelligence Corps. Senior Analyst, Special Intelligence
Left army as Warrant Officer Class One
Served in Europe, and Middle East + operational tours in NI.
Awarded GSM with Clasp (Northern Ireland) and LS and GC medal.

EDUCATION

- **University of Leicester**

Doctorate: Social Sciences (2001-2007)

Dissertation Title: 'Old Soldiers Never Die - They adapt their Military skills and become successful civilians'. What factors contribute to the successful transition of army veterans to civilian life and work?

- **University of Leicester**

Master of Science: Sociology and psychology of adult training, 1994

Dissertation Title: A Study and analysis of the effects of Personality type and learning style preferences on the Career development of packaging technologists.

- **Financial Training Ltd - London**

Management Accounts course

- **Loughborough College**

Human Resource Management; security; company law; business accounting

- **Staffordshire College of FE - Stoke on Trent**

City and Guilds in FE Teaching

- **British Army**

Army Cert Ed; GCE English; History, Geography; City and Guilds in Telecomms

SKILLS

- Financial planning
- Report writing
- Confident communicator
- Consulting
- Operations management
- Inspections and Reviews
- Negotiation
- Staff Management
- Policy Evaluation

ACHIEVEMENTS

- A published academic researcher
- RBL Centenary Award

James (Jim) McDermott

INTERESTS

- RBL
- Keeping fit
- Learning Spanish
- Playing the clarinet

PERSONAL

I am married with a grown-up family

RBL

Membership Number:
1125489

January 2022

PERSONAL STATEMENT

I am committed to ensuring that I give of my best to any organisation I am involved with and believe I am well-suited to the role of Legion Trustee. I have significant experience at senior level in a complex membership trade organisation which relied on external funding or sponsorship as well as membership fees and commercial activities for survival. I have held senior positions in commercial undertakings and understand the importance of strong leadership and partnership arrangements, the maximising of assets, people development and effective communication.

Drawing on my military, commercial and academic experience I am able to analyse complex information, draw sensible conclusions and make informed recommendations. I can work with others effectively and have a strong commitment to the Legion's core values.

I have dedicated the last 15 years to the academic study of armed forces veterans and have an in-depth knowledge of the wide range of issues encountered by some veterans and of the many charitable ex-service organisations available to provide help and support when needed.

If elected as a trustee I would commit myself to ensuring robust governance within the organization. I would strive for continued improvement in the way the Legion communicates with its membership internally and with the general public externally. I strongly support the use of new technologies in moving forward the Legion's vision into the future, whilst continuing to cater for those who prefer more traditional methods of communication.

I believe there is a particular need, with due respect to confidentiality, for the Legion's good work in alleviating suffering in the veteran community and its support and collaboration with other charities to be made more widely known. British society and its armed forces change over time and the Legion needs to reflect this in the way it operates and supports its beneficiaries, I am confident I can make a positive contribution to this challenge

I have been a Legion member for 24 years initially with St James's Branch, transferring then to the Y Services Branch, a national branch, serving as a committee member, Vice Chairman and since 2019, as Branch Chairman.

I have strongly promoted fundraising for the Poppy Appeal encouraging the adoption of the *easyfundraising* scheme and led the Branch in raising substantial funds for an entrance sign and the refurbishment of the Y Services Memorial Garden at the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) for which I received an RBL Centenary Award. Since 2021, NMA memorial owners have to pay for plot upkeep and I devised and successfully launched a scheme to ensure funding for the long-term maintenance of the memorial and garden.

I promote regular communication with my Branch members via an online newsletter which I edit. I have been a member of the National Branches District Committee since 2015 and have completed the Legion's Branch Management course (twice). I have attended Annual Conference on several occasions and once deputised at Conference for the NBD Chairman.

Group Captain (Rtd) R A REID OBE, ARRC, SRN, SCM and DipHEMns

Honours and Awards OBE, ARRC

PERSONAL STATEMENT

During my 30 years of military service in nursing, I saw at first hand the trauma of physically and mentally injured service personnel whilst on Aeromedical Evacuation duties during the Falklands conflict. Despite the passage of almost 40 years that memory has stayed with me and continually inspires me to support those of our beneficiaries, and others, who still suffer the consequences of their service.

Progressing through nursing roles in the Royal Air Force in UK and overseas I eventually became the most senior Nurse in the RAF and Defence Nursing Advisor to the Surgeon General and Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Health) Whilst serving I first experienced the valuable work of the Royal British Legion in 1987 acting as a medical escort on the first ever Remembrance Travel Pilgrimage to Burma, a role I repeated to Burma in 1993, and to Egypt and Germany after leaving the RAF.

Having joined the RBL in 1994 I have served in a variety of posts at branch level, as County Chairman of both the RBL and Women's Section Gloucestershire, and latterly as the County's President, and in 2016 had the honour to be elected to the Board of Trustees and even more honoured to be re-elected Trustee in 2019

As Trustee I have used my experiences at all levels, and the leadership skills I have developed over a considerable period, to influence Board and management decisions in a variety of ways, always at the forefront reminded of the duty we owe to our beneficiaries and very mindful of the importance of retaining local membership support for what we do. Among my highlights as Trustee are organizing and chairing the first "virtual" National Conference in 2020 and chairing the Committee to organize celebrations for the RBL's Centenary last May which regrettably was again digital

I believe our organization's ability and focus to engage with local membership has declined markedly and as your National Chairman I would work to turn this around and ensure that clear and regular communication, which is a vital ingredient for a membership organisation, is considerably improved and enhanced. I would support the Board of Trustees and our skilled senior RBL management to halt the decline in retention, particularly amongst loyal and long-serving membership, whilst recognising the vital need for recruitment especially by engaging with the 18-25 generation – our future members and leaders – using all of the media that they recognise.

The shrinking size of the Armed Forces will undoubtedly generate challenges for RBL in the future as service personnel leave in larger numbers, and we must ensure that those currently serving in the Regular and Reserve Forces are targeted as potential beneficiaries and made aware of the support that is open to them, their partners and families, should the need arise.

After serving you as a Trustee for the past 6 years, I believe I am well equipped, motivated and energised to step up to the role and responsibilities of being your National Chairman.

Shannon Saise-Marshall

I am an experienced team member, a well-presented, motivated and a hard-working self-starter individual. Interpersonal and communication skills verbal, written and attention to detail are high. My commitment and responsibility has allowed me to attain a balance involving being able to work independently, motivate myself and achieve targets. I believe that I am an approachable person, and handle situations in a controlled and methodical manner. Great networking skills.

Census 2021 Officer ensuring that the public complete mandatory return for the government Census. Highly confidential complying with GDPR regs, etc. Lone working, covid compliant.

Events Co-ordinator & Administrator for Runnymede Access Liaison Group RALG October 2019 – present. Assisting Chairman in administration and project managing the Annual Awards for Accessibility within Runnymede, Surrey.

Youth Programme Leader The Challenge NCS July – September 2019

The Leader acts as the 'face' of the NCS programme to all staff and participants, and works closely with the core staff team at The Challenge. This role is suitable for an exceptional people manager with experience of working with young people.

- Managing up to 15 staff to ensure the safety and pastoral care of all young people and the effective delivery of the NCS programme.
- Work with the core staff team to complete feedback for each staff member, and ensure regular performance feedback is given to staff throughout the programme.
- Ensure the NCS programme runs smoothly and to schedule.
- Hold all sensitive information of young people on the wave in line with The Challenge's data protection policies.
- Lead engaging pre-set evening sessions with young people, and assist with other curriculum delivery where necessary.
- Work with the Pastoral Care Lead to support their behaviour management and deliver any sanctions necessary.

Commander British Forces Commendation for rendering excellent service to HM Forces awarded July 2018 first civilian winner in Falkland Islands, citation available.

CESSAC Oasis General Manager Mount Pleasant Complex Falkland Islands August 2016 – April 2017

A charity welfare café for service personnel, not for profit service contract with BFSAI. Managing both volunteers and paid staff. Overseeing all aspects cash handling, recruiting, campaigning, hosting, stewardship and baking, H&S, accounts and wages, etc. Complete improvement, redecoration and re-launch successfully providing welfare for joint services overseas, through my own innovation.

Councillor elected at Runnymede Borough Council May 2012 – May 2016

Vice Chair of Housing & Standards and Audit Committees. Involved in organising Magna Carta 2015. **Appointed Armed Forces Champion for Runnymede Borough.**

Senior Community Facilitator NCS The Challenge, West Surrey July – September 2015.

East Surrey July 2016. Leading young people aged 15-17, directing their campaign, planning and social action curriculum and escorting off-site to business and charity partners. I was promoted within organisation to lead and train.

Shannon Saise-Marshall

Community Facilitator NCS The Challenge, East Surrey July – September 2014. Youth Work.

PA to Technical Director, Barratt London February - March 2014. Wallis House, Great West Rd, Brentford. Busy technical office overseeing multi-million pound FTSE Construction Company. Diary management, logistics, secretarial assistance, compilation of Board reports, performance reviews, etc.

PA to Head Teacher Heston Community School, Heston, Hounslow January - March 2013

The school had recently become an academy; the head teacher required improvement into this transition and to rework the office space. I was instrumental to bringing the school process online and advising how best to use the IT with the administrative staff in school office. I have a working knowledge of Capita databases, and filing responsibilities at Companies House including training senior members of staff.

Executive Assistant, Dyslexia Action, Egham Surrey October 2010 – October 2012

Responsible for the efficient and effective operations of the Executive Team and the administration of the Trustee Board. Taking on special projects at the request of the CEO. The incumbent CEO resigned and I organised the transition. Royal Liaison Officer. Manage large office budget and staff.

Finalist for 'Event of the Year' Executive PA Magazine Awards 2011.

Position responsibilities

- Liaising with our Patron HRH The Countess of Wessex's office. Able to interact with high profile individuals and politicians, etc.
- Overall responsibility for the management of the office function constantly improving the efficiency and effectiveness of our service to the public
- The management and coordination of specific projects, including annual awards dinner at Savoy or Dorchester Hotel and Houses of Parliament APPG, briefing events, among other occasions.
- Assistant Company Secretary

Youth Worker, Surrey County Council February 2010 – December 2011

Supervising, motivating and providing a leadership example for young people in Runnymede. Also as a detached outreach Youth Worker talking to young people in public places and as manager during drop-in sessions. VRQ2 in Youth Work qualification. I have attended Safeguarding Children level 1 training, and have a current First Aid certificate 2011. Drug Awareness Trained. Self-Harm trained and awareness course passed. Residential worker for adventure training personal development, Avon Tyrell.

Office Manager/IS Coordinator. SunGard Public Sector, CHERTSEY Jan 2008 – Mar 2010

Ensuring the smooth running of the office and organise personnel and maintain the facilities. Maintain the office in line with company security procedures and also ISO guidelines. Ensure the safety of all personnel on site by ensuring that Health and Safety procedures and guidelines are adhered. To act as the main point of contact for visitors and other enquiries regarding the office.

Senior Administrator/Secretary Compass Group plc, Sept 2004 – Feb 2007

Supporting nine operations managers, two ROMs and general manager, within the education catering sector. Solving remote issues.

Shannon Saise-Marshall

VOLUNTARY WORK

Chair The Royal British Legion Addlestone Branch 2020. Member of RBL Surrey Committee.

Director 2019 at SMPL Training is a bespoke eLearning and training & development consultancy borne of our activities supporting veterans and their families.

Radio Presenter at The Farm Shop Chertsey with Keeping the Weekend Going Show

Addlestone C-19 Volunteer Coordinator and Lead supporting vulnerable residents in the covid-19 lockdown, working with 136 volunteers completing over 502 shopping, collecting prescriptions, etc March 2020 to present

CWGC Volunteer Guide for Noor Inyat Khan Project 2020

Group Scout Leader 2nd Falkland Islands, British Scouting Overseas

Charity Board Trustee Explore REGISTERED CHARITY: 1084226 (Students Exploring Marriage Trust) September 2011 – 2016

School Governorships, Mount Pleasant School, MOD School Falkland Islands 2017-2018
Pycroft Grange Primary School Chertsey March 2012 - 2016
Local Authority appointed governor achieving Outstanding Ofsted.

Freelance fundraiser, I delivered a 'Party in the Park' concert featuring Chesney Hawkes, overseeing logistics, security, catering and was the licence holder with the Surrey Police. I regularly direct events including Balls or dinner events for schools and host. I have trekked to Everest Base Camp in November 2007. Climbed Ben Nevis 2005 and Snowdon in 2007. Walking the Great Wall of China in May 2007 for Breakthrough Breast Cancer charity raising over £81,000 in total. I completed London marathon in 2002 and 2004. Participant in Woking Bikeathon 2010, 2011, cycling around IOW for Military Service charities 2010-15. Project managed Dyslexia Action's Million Metre Challenge 2011.

People's Pageant narrator for Runnymede & Ankerwyce National Trust event 2019.

I was cast in the London Olympic Closing Ceremony 12 August 2012.

Achieved compostela, Camino de Santiago 2014.

Finding Sgt Partridge short documentary with NSI Canada 2014

Volunteered to sail with Jubilee Sailing Trust April 2013 Gibraltar to Azores.

March April 2018 Falkland Islands via South Georgia to Cape Town.

Royal British Legion CV

Name: Sarah Elizabeth Sturt

Residence: High Wycombe, Bucks

Career: Project/Finance Management

Industry: Construction

Professional Qualifications and Memberships: BA(Hons)

Awards: St John Ambulance Grand Prior, Duke of Edinburgh Award and Brunel University Student of the Year 1998 and Royal British Legion Gold Badge and Centenary Award.

Personal Profile and Introduction

As a family we have benefitted from help and support from the Royal British Legion in many ways and I volunteer to give back for what they did for our family as a THANK YOU.

I have learnt and developed a wide variety of professional business skills while working my way into Project Management and a Director of Administration and Accounts which includes Data Protection Officer as I hold a GDPR qualification. I also have experience in Project Commercial and Financial Experience, PR and Marketing, HR, Construction Project Document Control, Report and Presentation writing, Community Engagement, Writing of project construction plans, Health and Safety and Management of Project Staff. All this I bring to the Royal British Legion to help it grow in members and volunteers, increase the way it promotes itself within local communities, assist all formations of the charity. I am keen to undertake Continuing Personal Development in all aspects of life so I am prepared to do this for The Royal British Legion by attending as many courses as I can that are relevant to any position I volunteer to undertake.

Being a Volunteer County Secretary, CRO, CLO, IE and QPM I feel I have developed in the roles to the advantage of my county and the RBL. If elected to the Board of Trustees I would use my professional career experience and strategic management skills to the advantage of the RBL.

As part of my professional life I am required to hold a Mental Health First Aid qualification which I was awarded by Mental Health First Aid England, this qualification I have found useful on occasions when meeting some of our beneficiaries during my Branch Community Support volunteering and helping them to gain the courage and confidence to ask for more help via the Contact Centre which I hold firm as that is what we do help our beneficiaries.

I have and will continue to read and understand all the latest versions and ongoing updates of the following Royal British Legion documents:

The Royal Charter, The Membership Management Handbook, The Ceremonial Handbook, The Social Media Policy of The Royal British Legion, The Membership Training Handbook, The Whistleblowing Policy, Branch Property Trust Guidance Document, Data Protection and GDPR Policy, Office 365 Policies, Strategy and Purpose Documents, County Supported Branches Guidance Document, Branch Community Support Guidance Document, Complaints Procedure and Recruitment and Retention Handbook

Professional Qualifications:

BA(Hons) Leisure Management

HND Leisure Studies

GNVQ Advanced in Health and Social Care

Various City in Guilds, GCSEs, bookkeeping and accountancy qualifications

Charity related qualifications:

Certificate in Collaborative Leadership in Voluntary Organisations – The Open University

Certificate in Developing Leadership Practice in Voluntary Organisations – The Open University

Membership and Roles

2004 Joined the Royal British Legion

2016 to present Chairman of Wycombe Marsh Branch

2017 to present - South West Bucks Group Secretary

2019 to Present – Appointed Volunteer County Secretary, Buckinghamshire

2019 to Present – RBL Independent Examiner

2019 to Present – County Recruitment Officer

2019 to Present – Qualified Panel Member

2021 to Present – Club Liaison Officer Buckinghamshire

2021 to Present – DPAO Wycombe Marsh

Royal British Legion Courses and Conferences Attended

July 2019 – Royal British Legion Qualified Panel Member Course

June 2019 – Royal British Legion County Recruiting Officer Course

May 2019 – Royal British Legion Independent Examiner Course

March 2019 – Royal British Legion County Management Course

2018 - Royal British Legion Recruitment Advisor Course

2018 – Royal British Legion Branch Management course

2016 - Royal British Legion Branch Treasurers Course

Previous Roles

2017 – 2018 Committee Member of Loudwater and District Branch

2015 - 2018 High Wycombe Branch Treasurer

2013 – 2018 - Member of High Wycombe Branch Committee

2009 – 2010 - Member of Marlow Women's Section

2007 - 2009 High Wycombe Royal British Legion Branch and Club committees

2005 - 2006 Branch Secretary Radnage Branch

2004 - 2005 High Wycombe Royal British Legion Branch and Club committees

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