

**Norman West (87) of North Aston has been a member of Deddington Branch Royal British Legion (RBL) for 65 years. He has been awarded an RBL Gold badge and nominated by the County in the category of 'Excellence' for an RBL nation-wide award.**

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Norman West was a National Serviceman in the Army from 1952-54 during the Korean War serving in a Sound Locating Company\* with the 61st Light Battery, Royal Artillery. He joined the RBL in 1956. He was Treasurer to the Branch & Club from 1975-2001, Branch until 2018 and also the Poppy Appeal Organiser for most of this time. His efforts raised thousands of pounds for the charity every year. He has been the Branch Standard Bearer and was branch President from 2001 – 2008.

In recognition of his constant and exceptional contribution to the Legion, he has been awarded a Gold Badge by the RBL National Chairman. His name has also been put forward by the County Chairman to be one of five Oxfordshire members to be presented with a Centenary Award and to be nominated in a nationwide search for the outstanding Centenary Members in each of five categories: Service, Collaboration, Passion, Valuing our People, Excellence.

Major David Hood MC, Branch President, says "All Norman's friends and colleagues will be absolutely delighted to learn of his Gold Badge Award and that he has been nominated as our County's candidate for the Legion's outstanding Centenary Member for 'Excellence' in support of the Royal British Legion, including raising thousands of pounds every year for the Poppy Appeal.

Commander Rob Forsyth RN (Ret'd) Chairman, says "I became Chairman following the untimely deaths of the then chairman and his wife who was secretary. This coincided with the difficult decision to close our club premises through lack of use and high maintenance costs. Norman's unswerving support to me through this stressful time helped save the Branch from closure. His innate modesty hides a very dedicated and loyal member of our Branch whose recognition of his many years of unstinting support to the Legion I wholeheartedly applaud."

When asked to comment on his Award and nomination Norman said: "I never looked for or expected that my support of the Deddington Branch and Club would be recognised in this way. Nonetheless, I am enormously proud that I should have been singled out for these honours and would like to say a very big thank you to the President, Chairman and committee for all their support."

For further information:

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\* detects where gun fire originates from using direction finding sound receivers