

Honorary Freeman 2025

Rodney Jefferies MBE

Rod's service to the town started at 12 years old, when he began playing the bugle in the Chippenham Army Cadet Band. This was unusual because normally you had to wait until the age of 13, but his enthusiasm was welcomed.

At 15, Rod joined the army and was recruited into the Royal Artillery, training as a gunner and trumpeter. Ultimately Rod became a Trumpet Major in the King's Troop and played at state occasions every 3 to 4 months, playing for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Following his retirement in 2013, Rod became active in the local branch of the Royal British Legion. Wanting to give something back to the community, he started to train and nurture young buglers and drummers in the Air and Sea Cadet Bands.

Approximately 10 years ago, after assisting on a trip to World War I battlefield sites, Rod joined the 10th Chippenham Air Scouts. Using knowledge learned in the Army, he here helped young people develop their scouting activities.

The bugle still plays a part in Rod's life, developing the Chippenham Remembrance Buglers, a team made up predominantly of young people from local uniformed groups. The group supports the town's ceremonial occasions throughout the year. In addition to this, Rod will support any veteran's family when they are in need of a bugler to play the Last Post and Reveille at a veteran's funeral. As there is no central pool of buglers, if he is able to attend, Rod will be there.