



Leyland Bradshaw Ridings MBE

I was born and educated in Australia. I joined the RAAF VR on going up to university and left the reserves some fifteen years later. Part way through my university course I did my national service, also in the RAAF. On graduating, I trained as a chartered accountant having lost the sight in my right eye as a result of an accident when doing my flying training and commenced doing voluntary work for the RAAF. For medical reasons I transferred to the UK with my wife June and joined the London branch of the firm I was working for in Australia. (I left the firm in 1984 as financial controller of the UK when I moved to Kent with my wife and family and subsequently worked for a number of companies and set up two companies of my own.)

I was elected a governor of Sandwich Technology School in 1992 and Preston CPS in 1997.

Elected to KCC in 1997, my primary interest has been education, starting with early years, foundation, junior, secondary and tertiary. At the end of my term, I was appointed an Honorary Fellow of the University and the university's representative on the student union. I am currently a governor at The Marsh Academy and a trustee at the DoYRMS.

I took over from Sir John Grugeon as the KCC rep on the Kent SERFCA in 2001 and was closely involved in the centenary celebrations for the reserve forces in Kent and the 150th anniversary of the army cadet force in 2010. I was appointed an honorary member of the ACF mess in Kent. Additionally, I was appointed Armed Services Champion for Kent in 2009 and chair the Kent Civilian/Military Partnership. I joined the Royal British Legion as a branch secretary/treasurer in 1992 and became County President of the Kent RBL in January 2013. I am also a long serving trustee of Kent Music and the Kent Foundation and was a Justice of the Peace for ten years.

I joined St John Ambulance in London in the early 1980's. When I moved to Kent, I joined the St. John Council for Kent, I was appointed an OSTJ in 1997. I was appointed MBE for my services to local government in the New Year honours list 2011.