Membership E-newsletter - October 2021

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Every Poppy Counts

Collectors are back out in their communities





Marking 100 years of Remembrance



The Poppy Appeal 2021 has launched

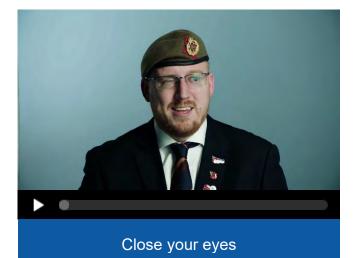
The Poppy Appeal is here and as restrictions ease 40,000 volunteers are back in their communities raising funds for our veterans, serving personnel and their families so keep an eye out for Poppy Appeal collectors in your area. Your support is as vital as ever as the impact of Covid-19 continues to leave members of the Armed Forces community in urgent need of our help. Every person, every donation and every poppy counts.



Collectors are back out in their communities

This year we are honoured to have the support of Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall who met 10 collectors, each one born in a different decade representing the RBL's 100 year history. Among those collectors are Members like Vera who has been collecting for many years and has raised more than one million and Anne-Marie who is the third generation in her family to support the Poppy Appeal.





Close your eyes and reflect on the selfless work of the Armed Forces. From peacekeeping missions to supporting the UK's response to the pandemic, our Armed Forces perform incredible tasks every day. The RBL has been here for 100 years and will continue to be here through thick and thin to ensure their selfless contribution is never forgotten and provide support to people like Anthony, Naomi and John for as long as they need it.



Win a limited-edition RBL100 Poppy Bear

To mark the RBL's centenary, our partners Merrythought, the UK's oldest-remaining soft toy manufacturer, are giving you the chance to win a personalised (name will be embroidered on the paw) limited-edition handmade Poppy Bear (RRP £145). Click the button below to enter the draw before **1 December** or if you want to buy a bear now please visit <u>Merrythought's website</u>. £15 from every sale will be donated to the RBL.

Find out more



The Northumbria County marked RBL100 with a special event and film

Enter the draw



Raising funds in memory of a long serving Member

To celebrate the 100 years of support to the Armed Forces community, Northumbria held an event that took place on Gateshead Millennium Bridge and Baltic Square Gateshead and was open to Branches as well as members of the public. The event was well attended with 20 Standard Bearers taking part in the parade. The County also came up with the idea to produce a special film that will tell the stories of the local Branches including those formed in 1921 for years to come. To honour Hayfield Branch Member David Ash, his fellow Members alongside the community organised activities to raise funds in his memory. More than £8,000 was raised through a charity auction of celebrity memorabilia and through the David Ash Big Heart Ale with 15 p from every pint donated to the Poppy Appeal. Also 40 people from the community received the David Ash Big Heart in the Community Award for going above and beyond to help others during the pandemic.

Read the story



Your questions answered at the Annual Conference Membership Forum

Every year a panel of experts are answering Members' questions at the Annual Conference Membership Forum. You can pre-submit questions together with the name and number of your formation by emailing

<u>annualconference@britishlegion.org.uk</u> or you can ask your questions on the day. If you haven't attended the conference before, you can watch the 2021 Membership Forum <u>here</u>.

Find out more

Read the story



Teaching Remembrance resources for Cadets, Girlguiding and Scouts

We continue to work in partnership with Cadets, Girlguiding and Scouts and have created bespoke resources tailored to the values of each organisation to mark 100 years of Remembrance. Designed for young people to connect and engage with Remembrance, they can explore what Remembrance means to them. Please help us spread the word by sharing these resources with local groups.

Find out more

Did you know that...



Thank you to all those who attended our virtual townhall event on 14 October about the changes to the trustee election process as well as how you can submit your nomination to become an RBL trustee. If you missed it and want to find out more about the work of our Board of Trustees, you can watch it <u>here</u>.



On 12 October a special service of thanksgiving took place at Westminster Abbey to mark a century of support to the Armed Forces community. We were honoured to be joined by Her Majesty The Queen and Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal as well as other guests including Members.



Join us for Poppy Run 2021

Run, walk or jog 5k at one of our 6 remaining Poppy Run events taking place in cities across the UK. Everyone's welcome so bring family, friends and even the dog! If you can't make one of these events, you can race at your own pace by taking on our virtual **My Poppy Run**



New Network for Carers

We know it can be lonely at times for carers in the Armed Forces community and our Network for Carers is a series of social groups bringing carers together to make friends and connect with your communities. The first group will be launching at the Royal Air Force Museum challenge. The funds you'll raise will go to create better futures for our Armed Forces community. Cosford in November with more groups to come. Click below for more information and get in touch to find your nearest group.

Find out more and sign up





From the Royal British Legion Magazine September 1971

A soldier, a sailor, an airman and a military nurse, in British uniforms of 1921, appear on this special stamp issued by the Post Office on August 25th 1971 to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Royal British Legion.

This month's quiz

Test your knowledge of the Poppy Appeal. Where was the first Poppy Factory, founded in 1922 by Major George Howson MC, located?

- 1. London
- 2. Cardiff
- 3. Richmond
- 4. Edinburgh



Last month's poll

Did you have a chance to attend a local RBL100 event these past few months?

208 Participants		%	
1	Yes I attended an in person event	45.67%	1
2	Yes I attended an online event	3.37%	2
3	No I couldn't attend an event	28.37%	3
4	No my Branch couldn't organise an event	20.19%	4
5	Other	17.31%	5

Encourage others to join

Our members play a vital role in ensuring that the Royal British Legion can continue to provide support to the Armed Forces community as well as upholding the importance of Remembrance. Share this email with others you think might be interested in Legion membership.



If you have any questions about the e-newsletter, please don't hesitate to contact me. If you have questions about your membership card or want to change your home or email address please contact our Membership Services team <u>MembershipServices@britishlegion.org.uk</u>

Best wishes,

Dimitra Nikolakopoulou

Membership Communications Officer membershipcomms@britishlegion.org.uk

Quick links

Membership Get support Poppy Shop

Contact

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