



## Central News – July 2025

### News and updates for members

News and Updates		
Title	Page	Summary
<a href="#">The King's Birthday Honours</a>	2	How to nominate for 2026
<a href="#">Updates for IEs</a>	2	Independent Examiners can now sign up for updates
<a href="#">Festival of Remembrance</a>	2	Ticketing ballot updates
<a href="#">Annual Conference</a>	3	Get ready to join us in Brighton next year
Branch Life		
<a href="#">Centenary celebrations</a>	4	Ypres and Cookstown Branches mark their centenaries

## The King's Birthday Honours – 2026 Nominations

On behalf of Paul Bennett, the RBL National President, the Private Office invites members to consider and submit nominations for The King's Birthday Honours 2026.

The RBL Honours Committee welcomes nominations for a National Award for Legion members, volunteers and staff, whose contribution to RBL goes further than is normally expected. The overriding principle is that awards should be made on merit, defined as achievement and exceptional service. Nominators should consider candidates who have made successful changes, with the emphasis on specific achievement; have demonstrated innovation and, where appropriate, leadership, which has delivered outstanding results.

To find out more about RBL's Honours Guidance, please [visit the RBL website](#). The final deadline for submissions is **8 August 2025**.

## Independent Examinations (IE) – sign up for important updates

If you are an IE, you can now sign up to receive updates and notifications on when your training needs to be renewed. To ensure that we have your up-to-date contact details, please complete this [form](#) for the Membership Compliance & Policy Team, which is now responsible for managing the IE register.

If you encounter any problems with the form, please contact the Membership Compliance and Policy Team at: [membershipCandP@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:membershipCandP@britishlegion.org.uk).

## Festival of Remembrance 2025

Thank you to everyone who registered for the Festival of Remembrance 2025 ballot. The ballot has now closed, and successful members will be notified from Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2025. If you have registered, please check your spam or junk email folders.

We have received a significant number of responses; whilst not all applicants will be successful, the new ticketing system has ensured all members have a fair and equal chance to secure tickets.

### Next steps:

- If you are successful, you will receive an email with a unique link from Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2025 onwards. **Please note, the evening ballot will be drawn first.** You will then be able to select your seats in your preferred location (subject to availability) and will be asked to enter your guest information and payment details. As in previous years, you will have 14 minutes to complete this.

- **Payment must be completed within seven days** of the link being sent.

For more information on the ballot process and ticketing rules, please [visit the RBL website](#).

## Get ready to share smiles at Annual Conference 2026!



National Youth Standard Bearer Rebecca Bell & National Standard Bearer Ellie Parke, both of Cookstown Branch.

Although it's nearly a year away, we'd like to take this opportunity to remind members that Annual Conference 2026 will take place 8 - 10 May, which is **one week earlier than usual**. Details will be shared in the coming months and will be updated [on the website](#).



Director of Membership, Ruth Efunnuga – joint runner up to the Sir Clive Johnstone award, applauded by National Chair, Lynda Atkins and Director General, Mark Atkinson.



Lynda Atkins, RBL's new National Chair, and Paul Harris, RBL's new National Vice Chair share smiles and a handshake

If you have never attended Annual Conference before, now may be the time to start planning! Annual Conference is open to all members and of 295 attendees who completed our post-event survey, 30% said it was the first time they had attended, with 'meeting friends and socialising' scoring highly for all as a reason for attending. Look out for details in Central News over the coming months.



Delegates and standard bearers Gather together at Harrogate

*Of 295 attendees who completed our post-event survey, 30% said it was the first time they had attended*

## Centenary celebrations



### Ypres Branch – 100 years strong

In June, local officials, international dignitaries, fellow branches from across Europe and RBL senior leaders joined our Ypres Branch in marking its 100th anniversary, celebrating a century of dedication to Remembrance. Events included a commemorative parade to the Menin Gate for the Last Post Ceremony, which has taken place each night for 97 years, even during WWII. (Photo by Eric Compernolle.)

Ypres Branch marked its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a commemorative parade to the Menin Gate

### Cookstown unveils a Centenary Plaque

RBL's Cookstown Branch, NI, marked a proud and poignant milestone in April when it reached its centenary. Branch Chairman Mr Mark Wilson invited Mr Robert Scott, Lord Lieutenant of Tyrone, to unveil a commemorative centenary plaque, which was then formally dedicated by Rev Canon Porteus. (Photo by Daron Patterson.)



Left to right: Ellie Parke, Graham Anderson, Rebecca Bell, and Norman Espie, National Parade Marshal

Thank you for reading! The August edition of Central News is due to be published

Tuesday 5 August.