

LATEST UPDATES

Membership Update - October 2016 Lapsing Process

As part of the October 2016 Renewal process, those members who have not paid for their membership will be lapsed on the central database (Care). The following actions will take place once the old membership cards expire on 31st March 2016:

- At the start of April, a data analyst will put together a list of all members with outstanding payments. This list will have had all pending payments removed from it. This list will then be sent to you, via your MSO, so you have visibility of the members that we are planning to lapse.
- We will then put together an automatic process in Care which will run on the last week of April to lapse the members that remain outstanding.

If you have any questions about the actions above, please contact your Membership Support Officer.

Membership Training

The last Membership Training Update went out on 22 Dec 2015 and there is another being prepared for the end of this week (11 March). It will be released to the County and District Training Officers, Membership Support Officers and County/District Chairmen.

- Please note that the next Parade Marshal's course is to be at Manchester and will be held PM Friday 8th to Sunday 10th April 2016
- To repeat requests from the Updates: please get all applications for membership training to membershiptraining@britishlegion.org.uk as soon as a need is identified. This is to stop us cancelling what we thought was unsupported and even if the training is yet to be scheduled in you might be identifying a gap that we have to fill. All applications must be countersigned before despatch.

Annual Conference

This year's Royal British Legion Annual Conference takes place on 21 and 22 May at the Devonshire Park Centre, 14 Compton Street, Eastbourne BN21 4BP. The programme will be full of interesting sessions, with a lot of exciting motions to be debated and remarkable guest speakers.

On Friday evening, at 19.30 all the delegates and visitors are invited to a social evening organised by the local County, Sussex. It will be a perfect chance to chat to fellow members, meet new people and relax before the main Conference opens on Saturday morning. Entertainment will be provided by the Victory Sisters – a wartime vocal trio.

In order to raise the organisation's profile and raise additional funds for the Poppy Appeal, the band concert on Saturday evening will be open to the public for the very first time. The Band of the Household Cavalry will give a special performance on 21 May at 20.00 at the bandstand located on Eastbourne seafront and everyone is welcome to attend. The concert will be followed by a display of fireworks.*

For any information about the Annual Conference please email: annualconference@britishlegion.org.uk or call the Annual Conference Administrator on 0203 053 7065. The deadline for submitting applications for delegate credentials is 21 March 2016.

* Both events are subject to weather and other conditions.

Branch Property Trust Update

The three month consultation on *Helping Branches to adjust following changes to BPTs* closed on 16 February. Thank you to all those who gave their feedback. BPT-connected Branches will receive a BPT Programme update through the post separately in the next couple of weeks.

Event Funding

The budget application process starts soon, so branches and Counties are asked to start completing their event funding application forms in order to receive funding for events taking place between 1 July 2016 and 30 June 2017. All proposals need to include a brief description of the event, objectives of taking part in this activity, expected footfall, anticipated outcome in terms of benefit to the Legion and costs.

Forms are available in the Membership Documents section of the Legion website (or from the Membership Support Officer). Completed forms should be sent directly to the Membership Support Officer.

Branch Community Support is Coming

Following the Branch Welfare pilot last year, and subsequent feedback from the Membership Support Officer Conference, Membership Council and the County and District Chairmen, we have now officially renamed the initiative as '*Branch Community Support*'.

Branch Community Support will give you, our Members, the opportunity to provide information, companionship and support via the five activities you told us you and your fellow members could, or do already, provide for the beneficiaries that are within your local community; home and hospital visiting, support for the bereaved including Standard bearing at funerals, telephone buddy services, community awareness raising events and setting up local outreach centres.

For those of you attending this year's Annual Conference in Eastbourne, there will be a dedicated stand on site to give you all the information you need to get started. Literature will be available and there will be people on hand to answer your questions. You will be able to register on site and then start to get involved with Branch Community Support.

If you are not able to attend the conference, you will receive all the information you need after the Conference.

The Patron's Lunch

On Sunday 12 June, The Mall will burst into life with over 10,000 guests at its largest ever street party, The Patron's Lunch, in the presence of **Her Majesty The Queen**.

We invite you, as the heart of The Royal British Legion, to host your own local Royal British Lunch on 12 June in honour of Her Majesty The Queen, marking her 90th birthday.

Why not take over a local venue and organise a sit-down lunch? Whatever you do, your Royal British Lunch will also be an opportunity to raise vital funds for The Royal British Legion's work giving life-long support to the Armed Forces Community.

We will present a specially created 90th Birthday plaque to Her Majesty The Queen, celebrating the combined total raised by this event and including your Branch name. So please, help honour our Royal Patron and be part of this joyful celebration!

[Click here](#) to request a Royal British Lunch pack.

MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL NEWS

Membership Handbook Update

At its meeting on 24th February 2016 the Membership Council approved the issue of a new version of the Membership Handbook. The February 2016 edition is now online for branches to download in the Membership Documents Area.

Please note that this version contains major revisions including:

- An introduction to the Membership Handbook in Part 1
- Previous parts Part 3 'Groups' and Part 4 'Branches' now form a new Part 3.
- A new Part 4 that collates templates and forms previously situated across the handbook.
- Revisions in line with the new Membership Renewal Processes
- Revisions to the format and submission of Bye-Laws
- Financial compliance changes regarding branch bank accounts

To access the latest documents, please use the link [here](#) with the log-in details below:

Username: memhandbook

Password: TRBLmem£86

If you have any queries regarding the changes to the Membership Handbook please contact your regional Membership Council member or contact the Membership Governance Coordinator on 0203 207 2339.

Membership Complaints

While we strive to get things right, there are occasions when complaints arise. The Membership Complaints process was reviewed and updated in September 2015 and there are now two leaflets on the [Membership Complaints webpage](#). These are to help anyone wanting to know what they should do next.

Complaints for January to December 2015

Overall there are slightly less complaints progressing to a Panel because there is greater use of local resolution although in 2015:

There were 30 formal complaints received of which 10 remain open. The majority of these complaints were either bringing the Legion into disrepute or acting against the best interests of the Legion, such as financial mismanagement or misappropriation of Legion funds. Seven Complaints were formally investigated by an Investigation Panel (IP) and it should be noted that some included matters referred to the Police by Internal Audit. The Legion does not investigate matters until the Police have finished.

The Legion Complaints Committee (LCC) can expel someone from Legion membership without the need for an IP when a Member has been found guilty in a court of law of an offence that either: disadvantages the Legion; brings the Legion into disrepute or directly brings into dispute their credibility as a Member. The LCC used the Automatic Penalty Award Procedure nine times resulting in expulsions from the Legion.

There were 40 other Issues received requiring action by the LCC of which three remain open. These Issues ranged through poor governance, to inappropriate behaviour, to potential financial mismanagement. Six of these issues became formal complaints.

Greater London District - Updates



Results of the 2016 South East Regional Standard Bearers Competition, held at Cobham on 14 February.



RBL

- 1st Mike Foster - Greater London District (above left)
- 2nd Steve Leonard - Sussex
- 3rd Andy Gale - Berkshire
- 4th Jean Fawley - Surrey
- 5th Geoff Lees - Kent

Youth

- 1st Emily Lander - Berkshire

Women's Section

- 1st Victoria Moxon - Berkshire
- 2nd Elizabeth Woolley - Sussex

Metropolitan WS

- 1st Rita Orange (above right)

100th Commemoration Battle of Jutland – Jack Cornwell VC, East Ham Parade Sunday 5th June 2016

<http://counties.britishlegion.org.uk/counties/greater-london/remembrance/jack-cornwell-vc>

BFI Statements

The quarterly BFI statements for the period up to 31 December were not sent out in January.

Unfortunately at the last minute a small error came to light in relation to the interest calculated for the quarter and so the Finance Dept. held back on distributing statements. Together with the arrival of the Legion's auditors and

the IT issues staff have been experiencing, Head Office were unable to correct the issue in good time and took the decision to cancel sending out the statements for the December quarter end and will now send a statement out in April to cover two quarters.

Chairman's Coffee Mornings - Branch Members Drop in Sessions

Branch Committee Members are invited to drop in at the Borough High Street, **Pop In Centre**, for informal discussions with the Greater London District Chairman and Treasurer, to share any RBL Branch concerns or just to chat.

Chairman's drop in sessions **11-12 noon** at the Pop In Centre on:-

- 12 April 2016
- 21 June 2016

If you would to see how to log onto O365 this can also be demonstrated on the Pop In Centre Computers at a drop in session, as above. Bring your log in and password details.



The GLD Committee 2016

NAME	Local Branch
Reg Pinney(Chairman)	Southgate
Bryan Binning (Vice Chairman, co-opted)	Greenford
Joanne Stevens (Treasurer)	Elm Park
Irene Brockey (PDRO)	Sunbury
Chad Carress	Croydon
Griff Griffin	Romford
George Dryburgh (DPAC)	Chingford
Jackie Pinney	Southgate
Malcom Hall	Chingford
Andrew Miller	Chingford
Linda Reynolds	Elm Park
1 year co-options	
John Bowers	Barkingside
Fred Grimes	Borehamwood
Russell Howe	Romford
Brenda Smith	Romford
James (Jim) Page	Romford

District Appointments	
POSITION	NAME
Ceremonial Officer	Stan Heath (Ashford RBL))
Parade Marshal	Michael Foster (Richmond RBL)
Standard Bearer	Michael Foster (Richmond RBL)
Welfare Representative	Ken Spowles (Bexleyhealth & Welling RBL)

GLD AGM of Conference

The GLD AGM of Conference, Draft Minutes from 6th February 2016 can be downloaded from this web page:
<http://counties.britishlegion.org.uk/counties/greater-london/greater-london-district-committee/gld-agm-conference>

Trustee Elections

Head of Governance & Administration Message

The compliant Branch database compiled in Haig House and used by Electoral Reform Services Ltd (ERS) to send, the election paperwork to our compliant Branches is less than complete. This has led to a significant number

of compliant Branches not receiving the necessary CVs, ballot papers, etc., to participate in these important elections.

If you are a compliant Branch and have NOT received the election paperwork please let your MSO (Sarah Stephenson) know immediately.

MC CALENDAR

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
14-Mar	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
				Good Friday		Easter Sunday
28	29	30	31	01-Apr	2	3
Easter Monday		Membership Council Meeting				National Youth Standard Bearers Competition
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		Membership Council Meeting				
25	26	27	28	29	30	01-May

Please send any of your team's news and achievements to pbadger@britishlegion.org.uk if you would like them published in the main Membership e-Newsletter. A full archive of Membership Newsletters can be found in the Membership Document Area or via your Membership Support Officer.