

# Greater London District Update – May 2017

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## 2017 General Election - Campaigning Guidance Booklet

A gentle reminder that Royal British Legion Members should refrain from speaking on behalf of the Legion on matters involving political parties, candidates or activists at this time. Members may of course express their opinions publicly, but only in a personal capacity, **without any reference to the Royal British Legion or any role held in the Branch.**

Charity Law dictates that charities cannot be established for political purposes and must never engage in party political activities. However, charities can still be political in so far as this enables them to achieve their charitable objectives e.g. by campaigning on issues **that directly affect the welfare of their beneficiaries.**

Members should remember that they cannot use media and 'official' Legion channels, such as branch websites or social media accounts, to publicise support or opposition to individual candidates or political parties, either explicitly or implicitly. They also cannot use branch or club premises to hold meetings for particular political parties or candidates, whether these events are policy focused or not. Full details on this topic can be found in the RBL 'Campaigning Guidance Booklet- 2017 General Election'. Branch Secretaries will have a copy of this emailed to them with this newsletter.

## November Cenotaph March Past

The application process has started for **RBL Members** wishing to take part in the Cenotaph March Past. Branch Committees need to enquire with their members as to HOW MANY members wish to attend. The Branch must feed back the amount of tickets requested by the deadline of **3<sup>rd</sup> July 2017**. This deadline is for Branch Secretaries to respond via email to the MSO [sstephenson@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:sstephenson@britishlegion.org.uk).

After the deadline of 3<sup>rd</sup> July, a follow up form will be sent to Branch Secretaries to collect all personal details and enter individuals into their correct categories. We have no concrete deadline for this form as of yet, but we're likely to need all details by September so that we can issue tickets. These are the details we will ask Branches for later on, so you may wish to obtain this information in readiness for the ask. We will need **all** these details.



- Title/Rank
- First Name (this must be the name on photo ID)
- Surname
- Date of Birth
- Place of Birth (town)
- First line of address, town & Postcode
- Military number (where applicable)

And the criteria which applies to them

- Ex-Service Personnel holding a campaign medal
- Civilians deployed on operations in support of the Military (*Includes; Police, Fire Service, Ambulance Service, Civil Servants*)
- Ex-Service Personnel with no campaign medal
- Bereaved Spouses (who died on operations)

As a maximum of 10,000 places are available in the parade; Members are asked to prioritise those who served on operations, both military and civilian, followed by others representing their remaining ex-Service membership and Bereaved Spouses. Carers may accompany the veteran, as long as they themselves use one ticket allocation (carers do not need to be a RBL Member).

Please do not request tickets for friends nor general members of the public, as this notification is for the **Membership** application process only. Ex-Service who are **NOT** RBL Members, must apply for tickets via their Regimental Association.

### **The Great Pilgrimage 90 (GP90)**

This commemorative event will be formally launched at the Annual Conference this Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> May. Following this as part of the communication plan, all RBL Staff will be fully briefed. Separately, Legion members will be informed of the GP90 plans via the June issue of The Legion Magazine, Office 365, the membership newsletter, Yama and the dedicated web page - [www.rbl.org.uk/gp90](http://www.rbl.org.uk/gp90).



Awe-inspiring British Pathe film, of the 1928 Great Pilgrimage can be viewed on this website.  
<http://www.britishpathe.com/video/the-greatest-pilgrimage>

### **Wanted - disabled motorbike riders with a wild side**



The BBC are making a brand new documentary series following a group of 6 disabled people as they undertake a journey through the heart of Vietnam, under their own steam. This two part series will be aired in the run up to the Invictus Games in September.

RBL are currently looking for dynamic, adventurous disabled people who can ride a motorbike (for example, who can ride a motorbike confidently in the UK, and holds a motorbike licence). The journey will be a rare opportunity to get to know Vietnam, travel to some of the world's most remote places and people, as well as ride down one of the most iconic roads – the Ho Chi Minh trail. The filming period will be from 12<sup>th</sup> June – 9<sup>th</sup> July. If you'd like to hear more, then please drop Maya an email at [maya.amin-smith@bbc.co.uk](mailto:maya.amin-smith@bbc.co.uk)

**WANTED  
URGENTLY**



Welcome to the inaugural RBL 'Poppy Posse' cycling ride. You are invited to join the RBL London staff Area Team for a friendly cycle ride as part of an **alternative** Remembrance 'Armed Forces Day' activity. A 13 mile easy paced ride as a human poppy chain, passing over 30 war memorials in central London. Bring your own picnic for the lunch stop off, in a public open green space.

Form up 10.30am at RBL HQ, London Pop In Centre, Haig House, SE1 1AA. (nearest tube Borough or London Bridge).

At registration you will be able to pick up your riders card, adorn your bicycle with RBL branded flags and poppies; study and discuss map with memorial listing and enjoy a free cuppa and biscuits before setting off at 11.30am. **DRESS CODE: RED; any style or costume, Lycra or vintage - in RED, RED, RED.**

Awards for 'Best Poppy Red Outfit' and 'Best Decorated Bicycle'.

## FREE EVENT

Registration and full details on Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/poppy-posse-tickets-26924200007>



Find a local AFD event listed on the official AFD website: <https://www.armedforcesday.org.uk/find-events/>

### ~~CANCELLED Family Day and Folk Festival – Southgate N14~~

~~A cordial invitation is extended to local Royal British Legion Members and residents, to join in the Family Day and Folk Festival on Armed Forces Day, Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2017.~~

~~**When:** 11am until 4:00 pm~~

~~**Location:** Barnet & Southgate College, High Street, Southgate, N14 6BS~~

~~**How to Get There:**~~

~~**Tube:** Southgate (Piccadilly line, Zone 4).~~

~~The Southgate Campus is approximately 200m/2 minutes walk from the station.~~

~~**Bus:** W6, W9, 121, 125, 298, 299, 382~~

### ~~New Addington RBL Armed Forces Day Event~~

~~**When:** Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2017, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm~~

~~**Location:** 225 Central Markets, London, EC1A 9LH~~

~~A community event with Reserved Force Units and local uniformed youth groups all invited to come together in the Market Square and raise the Armed Forces Day flag. There will be a barbeque, NAAFI tent, bouncy castle, face painting and drill displays for the whole of New Addington, Fieldway and the surrounding areas to join.~~



## **Branch Administration Rates**

In the last week of May 2017 Branches should have received in the post, from Membership Services the branch rates letter. Letters will be sent to Branch Treasurers, and where there is no Treasurer – to the Branch Secretary or Chairman.

'If Head Office do not hear from your branch, no subscription fees will be collected on your behalf.'

The letter will also state that an acknowledgement will be sent, confirming the receipt of a branch response within 10 days. Branches that do not receive the acknowledgement should contact membership Services as soon as possible.

Enclosed with the letter will be a new consolidated payments form for Branches to start using immediately for recruitment and renewal.

TRBL will additionally send these documents by email to all Branch Secretaries and Treasurers' Office 365 email addresses. Both documents will be available on Office 365 by the end of the week.

## **Reminder**

### **Branch Chairman's Seminar – Wednesday evening, 31 May 2017**

The London Area Office is hosting a GLD Branch Chairman's Seminar on Wednesday 31 May 2017. Arrival: 6pm for prompt start at 6.30pm.  
Location: Haig House, 199 Borough High Street, London, SE1 1AA.

**Branch Chairman** that are able to attend, should RVSP to the Membership Support Officer, Sarah Stephenson by emailing [sstephenson@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:sstephenson@britishlegion.org.uk).

