



Central News – October 2025

Membership information, updates and engagement

Key Information		
Title	Page	Summary
Sexual Harassment Policy	2	New policy in response to government legislation
Coloured poppies	2	Our position on different coloured poppies
News and Updates		
Our Strategy to 2035	2	Join our virtual roadshows this month to hear more
2025/6 National Elections	3	The nomination window is now open – what's next?
Remembering Bosnia	3	Service of Remembrance to be held in December
Black History Month	4	Highlighting crucial contributions during WWII
Branch Life		
Back from the Brink	4	New committee and challenges – Llanelli Branch's revival

Important dates	
8 October 2025 1pm – 2.30pm	Membership Strategy Roadshow [click to join]
9 October 2025 9.30am – 11am	Membership Strategy Roadshow [click to join]
13 October 2025	Membership Strategy Roadshow [click to join]
23 October 2025	Elections Briefing Day [click for info]

RBL's Sexual Harassment Policy

New government legislation expects every employer to do more to prevent harassment. RBL's policy on sexual harassment clarifies what it is and what we all can do to stop it. The policy applies to all colleagues, agency workers, casual workers, volunteers and contractors engaged by the Royal British Legion Group (RBL), including those at RBL, the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) and Poppyscotland. The policy can be requested from your branch or from membershipservices@britishlegion.org.uk.

RBL's position on coloured poppies

Remembrance commemorates the service and sacrifices of HM Armed Forces and their families. The Legion red poppy is a universal symbol of Remembrance and hope, including hope for a peaceful world. Here at the Royal British Legion, we produce only red poppy wreaths, which are available through the Poppy Appeal for anyone wishing to take part in an Act of Remembrance. Importantly, funds raised by the red poppy support our Armed Forces, veterans and their families in their time of need.

The RBL respects the rights and freedoms of groups and individuals to make their own decisions how to observe Remembrance. We understand that some people may wish to lay a different coloured poppy wreath or wear a different coloured poppy at Remembrance, often produced by other charities. We would ask that they consider using the red poppy alongside it as an act of respect for the service and sacrifice of Britain's Armed Forces, veterans, and their families, and we encourage those organising Remembrance services to discuss with all groups how best to meet their needs.

Our Strategy to 2035 – join our virtual roadshows

RBL's new strategy focuses on the changing needs of the whole Armed Forces community, serving personnel, veterans, families and the bereaved. Our ambition is to bring society together to recognise, remember and support the Armed Forces community.

Members will play a vital role in helping RBL to deliver the strategy. Come along to one of our virtual roadshows to find out more:

- [8th October 1pm - 2.30pm](#)
- [9th October 9.30am - 11am](#)
- [13th October 5.30pm - 7pm](#)

We've scheduled several roadshows on different dates and times of day to enable as many members to attend as possible. If you can't attend, we'll be sharing the recordings afterwards on MAP.

More information about our strategy is available on [our website](#).

2025/26 National Elections

Are you keen to play a role in leadership? In our current round of RBL elections, nominations are now open for four Trustee roles along with seven Membership Council roles for the following areas:

- Cheshire and Merseyside
- Manchester and Lancashire
- Northern Ireland
- South East Midlands
- South West Midlands
- West Midlands
- The Women's Section

If you're interested in applying, you'll need to be nominated for a role by your branch and attend an assessment panel before being progressed to the voting stage in spring 2026. Successful candidates will take up their positions in May 2026.

Key dates

- **Nomination window:** 1 October 2025 - 8 January 2026
- **[Briefing Session](#):** 23 October 2025 (online)
- **[Briefing Q&A](#):** 8 December 2025 (online)
- **Assessment panels:** 22 - 29 January 2026 (in person at Haig House, London)
- **Voting window:** 2 March - 9 April 2026

What your branch needs to do

- Hold a Branch General Meeting during the nomination window (1 October - 8 January) to approve an applicant.
- Schedule a Branch General Meeting during the voting window, (2 March - 9 April). A branch vote should be based on the view of all branch members. All branches can now vote, regardless of compliance status.

Election packs have been provided to each branch and information is also available on [RBL's website](#). If you have any questions please email elections@britishlegion.org.uk.

Remembering Bosnia

In December, RBL will remember the 30th anniversary of the end of the Bosnian War, and the crucial contribution of British Armed Forces in the international efforts to secure and maintain peace.

The international forces suffered hundreds of military and civilian casualties in the security

operations. Tragically, British forces lost 59 military personnel, and many dozens were seriously injured.

We are hosting a Ceremony of Remembrance at the National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire, on Sunday 14 December 2025 to remember the lives lost in the war in Bosnia and the extraordinary service and sacrifices of the men and women of the Armed Forces. We invite all personnel who served with British Armed Forces in the UN and NATO missions in Bosnia since 1992, and/or their families, to come together for an afternoon of reflection and comradeship. [Find out more or register on our website.](#)

Supporting Black History Month

The RBL is a proud supporter of Black History Month, which takes place every October. We provide inspiring content for its magazine and website, which this year highlights the crucial contribution of personnel from Africa and the Caribbean in WW2. [Find out more.](#)

Back from the Brink – Llanelli Branch, stepping up with a new committee



In 2023, after its entire committee resigned and left, Llanelli Branch faced closure. The community was left with no real RBL presence, and most locals believed the branch had already closed, says Branch Secretary Catherine Davies.

But with persistence and guidance from one member, Major (Retd) Raymond Batsford, a new committee was recruited. No former committee members were available to help but, says Catherine, each new officer brought unique talents, knowledge and experiences. “Together we’ve managed to breathe life back into the branch.”

She explains: “It was certainly a mixture of challenge and reward. Initially, the biggest obstacles were simply finding our feet, understanding the responsibilities, familiarising ourselves with the guidelines, and keeping on top of the administration and accounts.”

Encouragement from branch members and support from the MC Rep, MEO and District Committee all helped, while RBL training also built the committee’s confidence. “Peer support from other branch committees has also been invaluable.”

One of the biggest lessons, says Catherine, was that it takes commitment and dedication to succeed. “Often this means answering emails long after the working day is done. Several of our committee

members also work full time, so juggling volunteering alongside work and family life has been the biggest challenge of all.”

Being visible in the town quickly became a key objective, which was achieved by sending regular branch newsletters, advertising events and sharing diary dates. A public-facing Facebook page, which now has over 1,000 followers, enables the branch to share updates.

Despite growing its membership from 33 to 84, however, there is still work to do. “Attendance at our monthly meetings is still relatively low,” says Catherine. “We are actively looking for suggestions on how we can improve this and make the meetings more appealing and accessible to a wider range of members.”

To anyone else stepping up to save a branch, she says: “Don’t be afraid to ask for help, take things step by step, and remember that teamwork is key. It can feel daunting at the start, but it is also incredibly rewarding to see a branch survive and start to grow again.”

Thank you for reading! The next edition of Central News is due to be published Tuesday 4 November.