

Poppy Appeal 2026

Volunteer your time,
impact lives



OUR ENABLERS

Enabling us to deliver impact
and our strategic outcomes

The Poppy Appeal is our biggest fundraising campaign of the year, powered by volunteers across the UK. Members play a crucial role in supporting the Appeal and the more volunteers we have, the more beneficiaries we can support.

We're looking for [Poppy Appeal Organisers](#) to coordinate local collections, as well as [Poppy Appeal Collectors](#) nationwide. You can [register online](#), or if you'd like to find out more email poppyappealvolunteering@britishlegion.org.uk or call 0345 845 1945.

[London Poppy Day](#) will take place on Thursday 29th October and is a unique chance to connect alongside uniformed military personnel. Last year, over £1.4 million was raised in just 12 hours. With your support, we hope to go even further! You can [register on our website](#).

We welcome all volunteers – whether you're connected to the Armed Forces community or not. However you get involved in Poppy Appeal 2026, you'll be raising vital funds and making a difference.

Poppy Appeal 2026



REMEMBER

Recognising and remembering
service and sacrifice



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Remembering the Iraq War – 15 years on

On Friday 22nd May, RBL honoured the extraordinary service and sacrifice of the British Armed Forces during operations in Iraq. The event was held at the National Memorial Arboretum.

We were joined by veterans – including WO1 Johnson Beharry VC, the first living recipient of the Victoria Cross in more than 30 years – currently serving personnel, families, and the bereaved.

The event featured readings, films capturing the conflict in Iraq, musical performances, a flypast by a Chinook helicopter, an Act of Remembrance and wreath-laying.

[View photos from the event](#)



Thank you from the National Chair

As we head into Volunteers' Week, I want to say a heartfelt thank you to all our members for everything you do to support RBL.

All year round and across the world, you give your time and energy to stand by our Armed Forces community — raising vital funds, offering friendship, supporting families, honouring veterans, and keeping the spirit of Remembrance alive.

We simply couldn't do this without you. Thank you for all that you do.

Lynda
Lynda Atkins, RBL National Chair



That's a wrap on



Your chance to attend

Annual Conference 2026

Thank you if you joined us in Brighton or online for a successful Annual Conference.

National Chair Lynda Atkins gave her inaugural Conference address, shining a spotlight on members who are helping to deliver Our Strategy to 2035. Delegates debated and voted on motions, RBL's senior leadership team gave business updates, and we celebrated the achievements of our members during the National Awards Ceremony.

You can read more in the summer issue of Legion magazine, out in July, and see the full list of award winners and runners-up on our website.

Save the date for Annual Conference 2027 (7th–9th May) in Telford.

[Celebrating award winners](#)

Festival of Remembrance 2026

The ballot for this year's Festival of Remembrance is now open!

Members must enter the ballot using the [form on our website](#) for a chance to secure Festival of Remembrance tickets. The ballot will be open for four weeks, closing on Wednesday 24th June at 11.59pm.

- Wednesday 24th June: ballot closes for both performances.
- Wednesday 8th July: evening ballot is drawn and entrants informed of the outcome.
- Thursday 9th July: afternoon ballot is drawn and entrants informed of the outcome.

[Enter the ballot today](#)



We've got your back: celebrating Armed Forces Week

Armed Forces Week (22nd - 28th June) pays tribute to those who have served, those currently serving, their families, cadets, and the bereaved community.

RBL is here for the entire Armed Forces community, providing expert guidance and practical support whenever it's needed. If you know someone who may need help, encourage them to contact RBL on 0808 802 8080 (within the UK) or +44 (0)20 3376 8080 (from overseas). They can also [visit our website](#).

The National Memorial Arboretum is hosting an Armed Forces weekend on 27th-28th June, featuring live music and interactive activities for the whole family to enjoy. The event is free to attend; we recommend [booking in advance to guarantee entry](#).

You can also show your support by getting involved in local events. Talk with your branch about Armed Forces Week or search for events near you on the [Armed Forces Day website](#).

[Learn about Armed Forces Week](#)



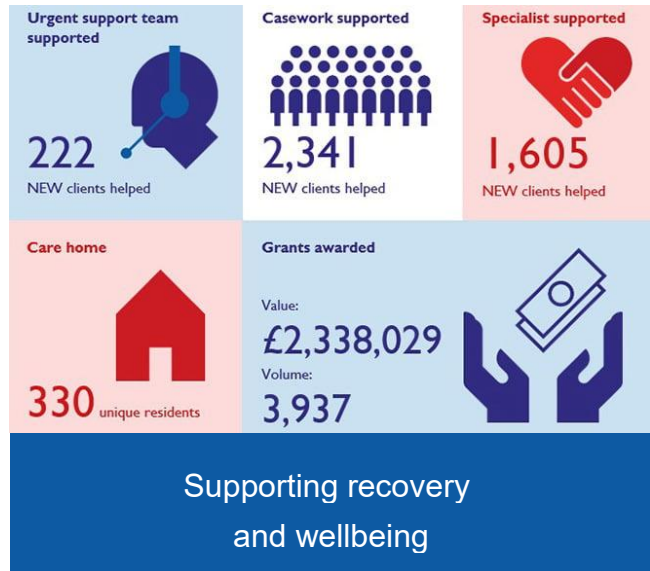
RBL to feature in BBC's 'Caring Together' series

Natalie Cassidy is taking viewers inside the world of care in 'Natalie Cassidy: Caring Together', the new BBC series following trainees as they work towards a qualification in care.

During the series, she learns directly from colleagues at RBL's Galanos House and the Battle Back Centre, gaining first-hand insight into the realities of care, recovery and support.

The programme also highlights the vital role unpaid carers play across the UK, sharing the challenges, compassion and everyday impact behind caring roles.

The series is now airing on BBC One and available on BBC iPlayer with RBL featuring in episodes 5-7 from 1st June.



Supporting recovery and wellbeing

During January-March 2026, we had high levels of demand across our services, helping thousands of beneficiaries manage financial pressures, health challenges, and recovery journeys.

During the quarter, we secured almost £3 million in financial outcomes through Benefits, Debt and Money Advice support, and a further £642,000 through our War Pensions Armed Forces Compensation scheme support. We also awarded more than £2.3 million through nearly 4,000 grants.

Demand for specialist support grew, with more than 1,600 people supported through specialist services and 181 beneficiaries supported through Recovery Services. View the infographic that provides a snapshot of how we supported people through casework, grants, recovery, Admiral Nursing, and our care homes.

[Service quarterly dashboard](#)



Fresh insights into the Armed Forces community

In 2024, RBL commissioned YouGov to survey more than 3,000 members of the Armed Forces community across the UK. This research reveals that almost half (45%) of respondents said they or their family are facing issues, most commonly physical health (17%), mental health (13%), and access to health services (10%).

Needs vary across groups, from feeling undervalued by society, to health concerns among veterans, and housing issues for serving personnel and families.

These insights help us create and deliver the right support services, and enable us to advocate for the Armed Forces community.

[Read the research](#)



Build camaraderie online in the Gamers Group

The Gamers Group is the first of our digital special interest groups, helping RBL reach new audiences and build communities online. It gives members a platform to connect with like-minded people and a space to discuss the latest games and expert reviews.

[Join the RBL Gamers Group](#)



When the plan changes: leadership, loss and life after Service

Tune in to episode two of our Fireside Chats on Monday 8th June from 12pm-1.30pm. RBL's Director: People Experience, Jon Summerson, will speak with Paul Findlay MBE, CEO of the Wembley Stadium Foundation, about transitioning from Service to civilian life after being injured in Afghanistan. They will explore loss, resilience and rediscovering your identity when your military career ends sooner than expected.

Each episode in the Fireside Chat series will be recorded and available on RBL's YouTube channel. Episode one [is already available](#) and features British Army veteran Steve Armon discussing lessons in leadership.

[Watch episode one](#)

Helping veterans rebuild confidence and independence

RBL's Recovery Services support veterans and serving personnel on recovery duty (PRD), including those recovering from injury or illness, helping them rebuild confidence, purpose and independence. Through recovery programmes, coaching, welfare support and community connections, the service supports beneficiaries through physical injury, psychological trauma, illness, transition challenges and social isolation.

Over the past six months, the team has grown so that support can be provided for long-term recovery and wellbeing. Read more about how [Recovery Services](#) help people reconnect with confidence, routine and a sense of purpose.

[Find out more](#)

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.

[Join now](#)

If you have any questions about your membership or you want to update your contact details, get in touch with Membership using the quick link below.

Quick links

[Membership](#)

[Get support](#)

Contact

Royal British Legion
Haig House
199 Borough High Street

Poppy Shop

London SE1 1AA



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The Royal British Legion incorporated by Royal Charter 1925 is a charity registered in England and Wales (219279) and Scotland (SC054446).

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The RBL is the UK's largest charity dedicated to bringing society together to recognise, remember, and support the Armed Forces community, and ensuring that their unique contribution is not forgotten.