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MEMBERS HELP THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY

Ensuring serving and ex-serving personnel
and their families receive the support they need



SUPPORTING THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY SINCE 1921



MEMBERS HELPING THEIR COMMUNITIES

From young veterans who might be struggling with money problems to older veterans who might be isolated, Legion members are helping all those in need. Here are a few examples of how members are supporting the Armed Forces community. Les Jackson, with help from his branch, opened a multi-award winning Drop In Centre for the community in Lowestoft while



HELPING A FAMILY AFTER TRAGEDY

Chantelle married her husband Ryan in 1998. In 2006 Ryan, who had been involved in the Territorial Army from a young age, completed a six-month tour of Afghanistan, but when he returned home he was diagnosed with PTSD and eventually took his own life. After a friend suggested to Chantelle that the Legion might be able to help, she contacted us and the Legion

Bob Cook and his friend Keith visit veterans who are suffering from Alzheimer's.

[Read the story >](#)



A FORMER ROYAL MARINE WORKING FOR THE LEGION

Nick Fleming had always wanted to be a Marine. After joining the service in February 2014, and enduring eight months of gruelling training, he was devastated when his career came to end because of a knee injury. Nick, who attended the Battle Back Centre in Lilleshall, later saw that the Legion was looking for an Advice and Information Officer. He applied, got the job and has been working for the Legion ever since.

[Read the story >](#)

stepped in to support Chantelle and her young family.

[Find out more >](#)



FROM MEDICAL DISCHARGE TO THE LONDON MARATHON

In 2005, Mike Kiff dislocated his shoulder while on active duty. When in 2014, while serving in Kabul, he had another injury; Mike knew he couldn't function effectively in what was a war zone. When he was discharged, chronic pain and depression threatened to end his marriage, but with support from the Legion, he and his wife have rebuilt their life together. In 2017 the couple ran the London Marathon to raise funds for the Legion.

[Read the story >](#)

Did you know that...



VETERANS' GATEWAY

The first point of contact for veterans seeking support

HRH Princess Anne who is the Women's Section President, attended this year's WS Annual General Meeting that took place in January. In the photo Princess Anne is shaking hands with the WS National Chairman Pat Chrimes.

Veterans' Gateway is a finalist for the Forces in Mind Trust Working Together Award at the Soldiering On Awards 2019, having demonstrated an enduring commitment and collaborative approach to supporting the sector within the wider community.



HELPING VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES WITH SMALL HOUSEHOLD REPAIRS

The Legion's handy vans service helps ex-Service people and their families with small household repairs and minor adaptations. We have a dedicated and trusted team of experienced handy-people who are fully trained to carry out low-level maintenance in your home. We currently have handy vans in 21 counties and partnerships with other organisations that will offer the same service on behalf of the Legion if we don't cover your area.

OFFERING BREAKS TO SERVING AND EX-SERVICE PERSONNEL

The Legion offers much-needed breaks to ex-service and serving personnel and their families. If you or a member of your family is recovering from an illness, bereavement or other life-affecting event, the Legion can provide a comfortable and enjoyable break. We have four Break Centres located in prime locations around the UK. The Legion also provides Adventure Breaks, where young people of Service families can have a fun and activity-packed week.

[Find out more >](#)



CALLING NORMANDY VETERANS TO TAKE PART IN THE D-DAY 75 TOUR

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of D-Day the Legion will provide a fully funded tour for 300 D-Day and Normandy veterans and a carer or guest for each veteran. The veterans will be taken to France to mark the D-Day landings anniversary on 6 June 2019 on a specially chartered ship. Veterans interested in taking part should apply by 4 March, so please help us spread the word.

[Find out more >](#)



[Find out more >](#)



D-DAY DARLINGS TO PERFORM AT THE UNION CHAPEL ON 1 MARCH

The D-Day Darlings will be performing at the Union Chapel on 1 March, in the presence of Their Royal Highnesses Prince and Princess Michael of Kent. Katie Ashby, the group's founder and lead singer, has been raising funds for the Legion for a number of years. All tickets available from ticketline.co.uk, Ticketmaster.co.uk or unionchapel.org.uk or call 0844 888 9991.

[Book tickets >](#)



A YEAR OF SPECIAL EVENTS 2019

Every year the Legion organises a series of social events to bring together all those who support our work and raise funds for the Armed Forces community. This year's programme includes new events inspired by the 75th anniversary of D-Day such as [Winston and his words](#) on 12 June 2019 as well as classical concerts such as the [Concert for St George](#) on 1 May 2019 and the [Concert by the Central Band of The Royal British Legion](#) on 12 October 2019. Have a look at the brochure for information about the social events.

[View the brochure >](#)

RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS NEEDED

Have you served in the Armed Forces, live in the UK and were born before 01 January 1950? Then we'd like to invite you to take part in a research workshop in April which is part of the Legion Healthy Living Portfolio in partnership with Lancaster University. You'll meet other veterans of your generation and talk about your military service together. Lunch will be provided, and travel will be reimbursed. Register your interest by contacting: Dr Brigit McWade b.mcwade@lancaster.ac.uk or call 01524 592908.

[Find out more >](#)

Have you served in the Armed Forces and want to share your story?

We want to hear your stories. If you have served or you are currently serving and want to be featured in a future edition of the e-newsletter please send an email to Membershipcomms@britishlegion.org.uk with your name, where you have served as well as any experiences that you would like to share. We might not be able to publish every story but we aim to share as many of your stories as possible in future editions of the e-newsletter.

Going back in time

From The Royal British Legion Magazine August, 1959

The happy group on the cover of the August 1959 Legion magazine are some of the 121 fatherless children who went to Butlin's Holiday Camp, Clacton-on-Sea, accompanied by Legion 'aunts' and 'uncles' for a week by the sea.



This month's poll



What are the most pressing needs of the Armed Forces community?

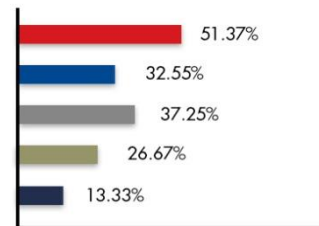
1. Physical and Mental Wellbeing
2. Financial and Employment Support
3. Care and Independent Living
4. Local Community Connections
5. Expert Guidance including legal and housing advice
6. Other

Take part in the poll >

Last month's poll and results

What is the most appealing aspect of your branch membership?

1. Meeting like-minded people - 51.37%
2. Organising or attending Legion events - 32.55%
3. Being able to support local beneficiaries - 37.25%
4. Having access to a Legion club - 26.67%
5. Other - 13.33%



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 the e-newsletter, please don't hesitate to contact me. If you have questions about your membership card or want to change your home or email address please contact our Membership Services team MembershipServices@britishlegion.org.uk

Best wishes,

Dimitra Nikolakopoulou

Membership Communications Officer

membershipcomms@britishlegion.org.uk

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CONTACT US

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