

Join us in celebrating RBL 100

100 years of supporting
the Armed Forces community



Marking the Royal British Legion's centenary

Dear Member

In 2021 we celebrate the Royal British Legion's centenary marking a century of supporting the Armed Forces community. In the last 100 years a lot has changed, and the organisation had to evolve to meet the needs of the community we serve, but it is Members' dedication and commitment that remain the same all this time.

On 15th May 1921, four men representing different ex-Servicemen organisations laid a wreath at the Cenotaph war memorial in London, forming the then British Legion with the aim to support those who fought for their country and their families and remember all those who made the ultimate sacrifice. 100 years later, the Legion is still present in the community, with approximately 2,500 Branches in the UK and overseas.

Back in 1921 Members made a difference by fundraising for the Poppy Appeal, providing welfare locally and laying the foundation for what has become the UK's largest Armed Forces charity. I am extremely proud that Members today continue in the footsteps of the men and women who founded the British Legion and the Women's Section and do incredible work to support the Armed Forces community from raising vital funds and remembering those who served and sacrificed to looking after local serving and ex-serving personnel and their families.

The RBL's work is as important now as it was 100 years ago and as long as there are members of the Armed Forces community who need our help, we'll always be here to extend a hand to lift them up. I want to thank all of you for being Members of the Royal British Legion in its centenary year and I am

certain that all Members including myself look forward to the next 100 years.

Thank you

M. Cleminson

**Una Cleminson BEM TD,
National Chairman of the Royal British Legion**



Marking the Royal British Legion's centenary

In 1921 veterans from four organisations, came together to lay wreaths at the Cenotaph as a symbol of unity and form the British Legion. On 15 May a special event will take place at the Cenotaph, recreating this moment from 100 years ago. Watch the live streamed event from 8.55 am on our Facebook page.

[Watch on Facebook](#)



RBL100 activities taking place on 15 May 2021

Keep an eye on our social media for photos and videos of centenary activities, including a Westminster Collection RBL commemorative coin used in the FA Cup final coin toss and messages of celebration from serving personnel and the Royal Family. Share your activities using the hashtag #RBL100.

[Find out more](#)



The founding of the British Legion

Earl Haig was our first President as well as one of the founding Members that worked tirelessly championing the needs of the Armed Forces community. Haig was instrumental in launching the Poppy Appeal and visited many Branches until his death. 100 years on we continue Earl Haig's legacy ensuring all members of the Armed Forces community can live dignified and fulfilled lives.

[Find out more](#)



100 years of Membership

Back in 1921, Members started forming local Branches to help those in urgent need of support and in 1928 they organised the Great Pilgrimage to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice during WWI. Today's Members are still providing vital support and are holding Remembrance events and will continue to be at the heart of our work for generations to come.

[Find out more](#)



Poppy shop competition

To celebrate RBL100, we are giving a £25 Poppy Shop voucher to 10 lucky members to spend buying Poppy Shop products including from the [Centenary collection](#). Enter the competition by clicking the button below and providing your membership number and contact details by **31 May**. The winners will be randomly selected after the closing date and will be contacted via email.

[Enter the competition](#)



Annual Conference on 15 May 2021 at
10am

To watch the live streamed Annual Conference as a visitor, please visit [this page](#) on the day and enter the meeting ID: **180-406-351**. Then you'll need to enter your details to access the page to watch the live broadcast and submit any questions for the Membership Forum. View the guide for more information.

[View the guide](#)



Register your centenary events or
activities

If you are planning to hold an event, online or offline, small or large, with your family or your community, you can register it by using [this form](#). You'll also be able to download event assets such as posters and bunting and view our '[Celebrate Together](#)' brochure if you need some inspiration.

[Find out more](#)



How a Member of the Riders Branch raised over £100,000

After joining the Riders Branch, Army Veteran Adam experienced a comradeship that he hadn't experienced since leaving service. Having received financial guidance from the RBL Adam wanted to give back. In 2008 he started Weston Bike Nights a motorcycle event asking members of the public to pay £1 to park their bikes on the seafront and has since raised over £100,000.

[Read Adam's story](#)



Jemima and Toby Castle among the RBL's youngest fundraisers

From a very young age Toby Castle, now 17, and his sister Jemima, 15, have been helping their father James, a Poppy Appeal Organiser in Hartfield. Toby, a Youth Member, was one of the youngest Members to take part in GP90 and together with his father he also participated in the 2018 Festival of Remembrance holding photographs of their ancestors who served in WWI.

[Read the story](#)



Commemorating D-Day 77

We are working with the Normandy Memorial Trust to deliver an event on 6 June at the National Memorial Arboretum to mark D-Day 77. D-Day veterans and relatives of the fallen are invited to attend and witness a live broadcast of the opening of the British Normandy Memorial, coverage of the service at Bayeux Cemetery and a Two Minute Silence at 11am. If you are, or you know, a Normandy veteran who may wish to attend, please **contact us** for more details and to register your interest by **21 May**.

[Find out more](#)

Are you planning an activity or event to celebrate RBL100?

If you are looking to hold an activity or event this weekend and want to be featured in a future edition of the e-newsletter please send us a few GDPR compliant photos and a short description of your event or activity to Membershipcomms@britishlegion.org.uk by 20 May. We might not be able to publish every photo but we aim to share as many of the photos as possible.

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

Quick links

Membership

Get support

Poppy Shop

Contact

The Royal British Legion

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