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## Members raising funds for the Armed Forces community

Members' work makes a difference in the lives of the people we support



### Members making an impact by fundraising for the Armed Forces community



Ian Coleman on serving as the Blackpool Branch President

During the 27 years, Ian held the position of Branch President, he raised an incredible 137k for the Poppy Appeal through the Poppythons, his annual marathon variety shows that were featuring well known stars and talented members. After incidents of desecration of War Memorials, he successfully campaigned for stronger laws against those who vandalise



Two young Members raised funds to support the Poppy Appeal in Malta

Two friends Giuseppe Pace Mercieca and Alex Galea, met during their training as Marine Cadets and decided to take on a trekking challenge to support the Poppy Appeal and the local Branch in Malta. The two young Members, set off to complete a round Malta trek of 130km while carrying 36lb packs, which they managed to complete within 48 hours and

Memorials in the UK and he also promoted the RBL when he visited the US.

[Read the story](#)

have also raised 1140 Euros in aid of the RBL and the Poppy Appeal.

[Read the story](#)



## Calling Members who served in the Falklands to share their stories ahead of Falklands 40

The RBL's Marketing Team is looking for Members who served in the Falklands War or were involved as civilians and would like to share their stories and experiences. Please email the RBL's Press Office via [PRAdmin@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:PRAdmin@britishlegion.org.uk) outlining details of your service and any memories you are particularly keen to share. These could be used in the media as well as on the RBL's digital channels and you may be contacted by a member of the RBL's PR or Marketing Team.



## Annual Conference 2022

This year's Annual Conference will be held at the QEII Centre in London. All delegates whether online or in person will be able to vote on Motions. The 19 Motions already submitted, are assessed by the Annual Conference Committee with the help of the



## LGBT+ History Month

To celebrate LGBT+ history month we're sharing the story of David Kelsey who joined the Army when he was 16 years old and served with the Royal Engineers for 7 years before his career was cut short because of the ban on LGBT+ personnel serving in the Armed

Director of Membership and Legal Council, and the approved Motions will be published in the final agenda that will be sent out to Branches.

[Find out more](#)

Forces. Now the Mayor of Bournemouth, David works as an Armed Forces Champion and supports the Poppy Appeal as a volunteer.

[Read the story](#)



## Marking Coventry as the UK's City of Culture

We've partnered with WCS Group to create a webpage to commemorate 100 years of service and sacrifice from the people of Coventry and the surrounding area, including those who came from Coventry and the ancestors of the people of Coventry today. If you live in Coventry or have ancestors who lived in Coventry, you can share their service stories from WW1 to the present day by clicking the button below.

[Find out more](#)

### Did you know that...



The Membership engagement survey will launch this week so keep an eye out for the email you'll receive this Friday 25 February inviting you to take this anonymous survey. By sharing your feedback you'll help us improve the experience for all Members.

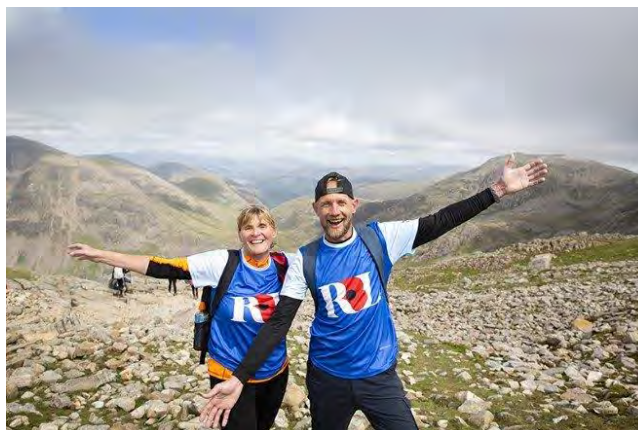
Do you know of a military family member who has done something inspiring to support the Armed Forces community? You can nominate them for the first ever [Celebrating Forces Families Awards](#)! Find out about the awards and submit your nominations before 4th March.



Take on Poppy Ride to ride alongside veterans

First-time event riders or sportive enthusiasts can enjoy one of the three distance routes that wind through the picturesque countryside in Shropshire or the South Downs. Participants will have the opportunity to ride with veterans. Use the discount code **EARLYBIRD22** before 28 Feb 2022 to get £4 off the entry fee.

[Find out more and sign up](#)



Join one of our two Poppy Treks that will take place in August 2022

Our two new one-day treks, trek Scafell Pike and trek Great Gable, will offer views of unique landscapes as we hike approximately 11 miles before reaching the top where we'll stop to take in the breathtaking views across Cumbria and share a moment's reflection at the UK's highest War Memorial.

[Find out more and sign up](#)

Going back in time



### **From the Royal British Legion Magazine April 1947**

Ex-service men and women mingle with civilians at lunch after a morning of lectures and talks. Photo taken at the Legion's summer holiday course at Balliol College, Oxford. The courses were free of charge for those who took an interest in civics or science or other cultural topics while in the services and wanted to continue to discuss such things with other like minded people.

### **This month's poll**

If you were given the opportunity to join the military (for the first time if you haven't served or again if you've served/serving), which Branch of the Armed Forces would you choose?

1. Army
2. Royal Air Force
3. Royal Navy
4. I wouldn't want to join/re-join
5. Other

[Take part in the poll](#)

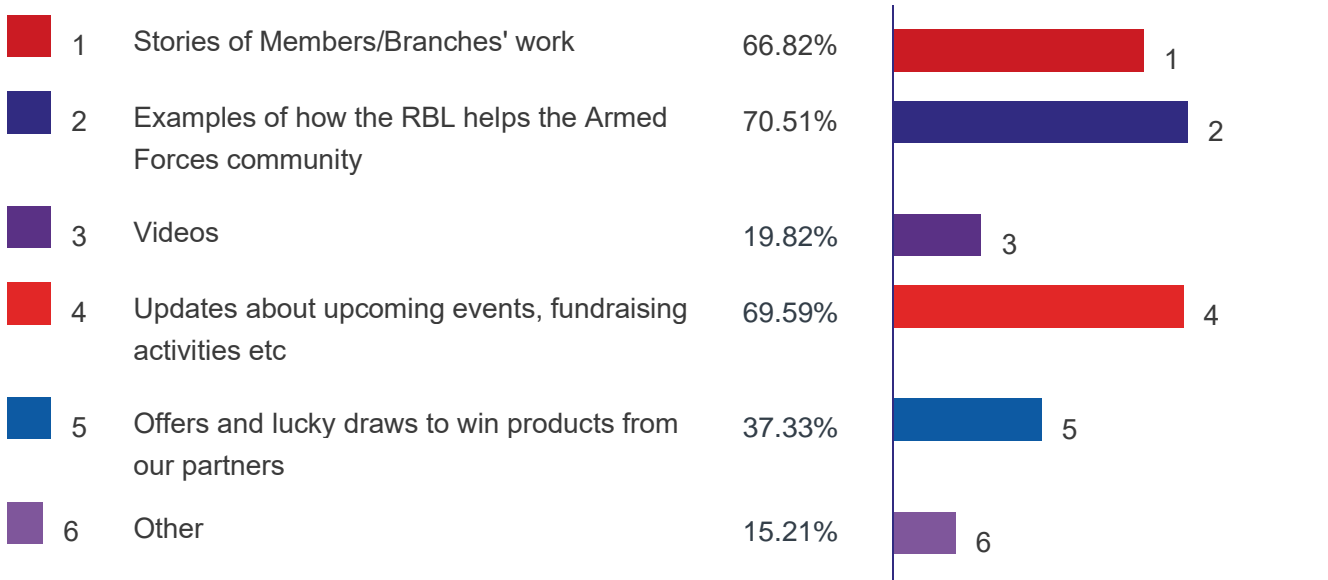
## Last month's poll

What content would you like to see in the membership e-newsletter?

**217 Participants**

**%**

**Graph**



### 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](mailto:MembershipServices@britishlegion.org.uk)

Best wishes,

**Dimitra Nikolakopoulou**

Membership Communications Officer

[membershipcomms@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:membershipcomms@britishlegion.org.uk)

### Quick links

[Membership](#)

[Get support](#)

[Poppy Shop](#)

### Contact

The Royal British Legion

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London SE1 1AA

[membershipcomms@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:membershipcomms@britishlegion.org.uk)



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