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Supporting the needs of veterans

Listening to our Armed Forces community



Listening to our veterans



Welcome to our new
Director General

Mark Atkinson joined RBL in January, succeeding Charles Byrne. He's spent 25 years working for charities and was previously CEO at the Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID), and before that he was at Scope. Mark's particularly looking forward to getting to know our members: *"One of the most powerful things about the RBL is the 180,000 plus members, who care deeply about the work the charity does, but are also there on the frontline supporting the communities we're working with."*



Remembering D-Day and
the Battle of Normandy

The D-Day landings of 6th June 1944 was the largest seaborne invasion in history. We will be marking the 80th anniversary with events in the UK and Normandy on 5th and 6th June 2024, as well as with community events around the UK.

We are inviting Normandy and WW2 veterans, families of the fallen, descendants, and members of the public to join us in commemorating D-Day 80. To learn more and register for each event you wish to attend, please [visit our website](#).

You can read a full interview with our new DG in the March issue of Legion magazine, available from the 7th March.

[Register for D-Day 80 events](#)

[Read the Legion magazine](#)



Membership Engagement Survey 2024 is now live!

Your insight and feedback on your experience as a member is invaluable, and we would be so grateful for your participation. The results of the survey help us to understand what you value as a member and what you'd like out of your membership in the future. Please check your inbox to find the link to complete the survey, or alternatively click the button below. The survey closes on Monday 4th March, so there's still time to share your thoughts with us.

[Take the survey](#)



Ensuring RBL remains politically independent on social media

Many of you will be interested and engaged in politics at a national and local level, and as 2024 is a General Election year we're likely to see and hear more political messages, discussion and debate than usual. As a charity we must remain impartial and refrain from making any statements or taking part in any activities that could be deemed party-political. So, if you're a Branch Officer running an RBL social media account, we've created some guidance to help you.

[Read our policy](#)



Register to hear Annual Conference guest speaker Stacey Denyer

We are delighted that Stacey Denyer, an Invictus Team UK bronze medallist with two British records in the one-minute sprint, will speak at Annual Conference. An RBL beneficiary and employee, Stacey served for 19 years in the RAF Police before being medically discharged with multiple sclerosis and osteoporosis. We look forward to warmly welcoming her in May. To hear Stacey speak at Conference, [register to attend](#) in person or online by 28th March.

[Register to attend](#)

Participants needed in research surveys

The King's College Centre for Military Health Research has launched two new surveys. One asks qualifying ex-personnel about their experience of leaving the military, while the other looks at lifestyle behaviours. Questions will explore the impact transitioning has on things like relationships, and mental health. You'll also be asked to answer some short questions about yourself, and the lifestyle survey will ask you to complete a journal. To take part in the leavers survey, contact vetwrite@kcl.ac.uk. [Visit this site to take part in the lifestyle survey.](#)

[Read more](#)



Soldiering On Awards 2024 applications open

The Soldiering On Awards provide an opportunity to spotlight individuals or organisations who have made positive contributions to the Armed Forces community. There are several categories of award recognition including Animal Partnership, Education, Training and Development, and Lifetime Achievement. You can find the [nomination form here](#). Nominations close on 2nd April 2024 with finalists announced in June and winners formally announced at an Awards night in October.



Sign up for Legion magazine and get the inside scoop!

As part of your membership you can opt in to receive a copy of Legion, the official members' magazine. Legion is a great way to keep up to date on the latest RBL events, fundraising activities and new campaigns. Each edition offers a mix of news, interviews, beneficiary stories and military-themed articles that highlight important issues. Regular sections include Reunions and Lost Trails, where members young and old can trade stories and track down long-lost comrades, and Letters, where members can voice opinions and share information.

[Read more](#)

[Sign up today](#)



Armed Forces Veteran Card
now available

The Veteran Card service is being delivered by the Ministry of Defence, together with the Office for Veterans' Affairs, as part of the work to improve the support available for veterans. Veterans who left the Armed Forces before December 2018 can verify their veteran status online with a new digital application service in order to receive a Veteran Card. A paper-based application process is also available as an alternative to the digital system.

[Apply for your card](#)



LGBT+ history month:
Ken's story

To celebrate LGBT+ month in February we're sharing the story of Ken Higgins who served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps for 11 years. During that period Ken lived a dual life, unable to open up about the fact that he was a gay man. After the death of his partner, Ken eventually left the Army, but today still feels very much part of things. "I've marched past the Cenotaph, which I am doing again this year. I also marched at London Pride." This year Ken is celebrating his 10th year volunteering for Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Branch.

[LGBT+ Branch Membership](#)



Credit their Service
campaign



RBL hosts Special Educational Needs
and Disability roundtable

Can you support RBL's Credit their Service campaign and help some of the poorest members of the Armed Forces community currently receiving military compensation? RBL would like members to write to their local councillor to ask how their council treats military compensation when means testing for benefits. We have prepared a template letter to help you raise awareness in your area for this important campaign.

[Credit their Service letter](#)

Last month [RBL's Campaigns, Policy and Research team](#) hosted a roundtable on Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) in the Armed Forces community. Our [2024 General Election manifesto](#) calls on the UK Government to provide better public services for Armed Forces families, including increasing SEND support funding for service children. The event focussed on understanding good practice, identifying barriers, and agreeing next steps to improve policy & practice for SEND Armed Forces families.

[Read more](#) about the day.

[Contact us](#)



Pedal Normandy beaches
- last chance to sign up

Join the ride to explore Normandy's wartime history. We have a few spaces left for the event taking place between 12th and 16th July. Over three days we'll cycle through Normandy, marking the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day landings and remembering the sacrifices made by all those who fought in both World Wars. Use this exclusive code **Normandy50** to get £50 off the entry fee!

[Sign up now](#)



New medal awarded during
County Conference in Axminster

The Nuclear Test Medal has been presented to the widow of a veteran for his participation in the UK's nuclear bomb tests in 1957. The medal, sanctioned by HM King Charles, was presented to sailor Anthony Johnson's widow at the 103rd Annual RBL Devon County Conference in January.

Going back in time



From the Royal British Legion Journal, February 1962

Hillary Street Secondary Modern School, Walsall were given a Poppy Day target of £140 by teachers. Pupils raised an astonishing £251, which they presented to Walsall Branch.

This month's poll

How do you get your RBL news?

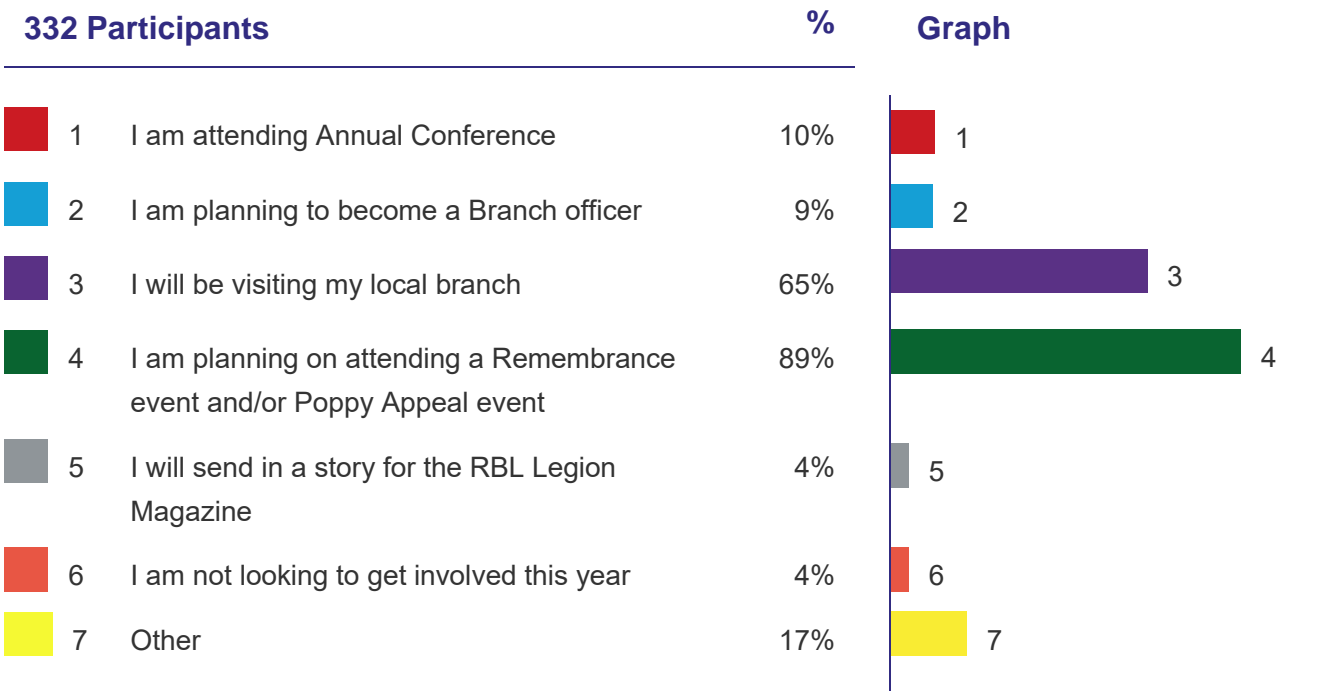
1. Membership E-newsletter
2. Legion Magazine
3. RBL website

- 4. Facebook
- 5. X (Twitter)
- 6. Instagram
- 7. Other

Take part in the poll

Last month's poll

How are you looking to get involved with RBL in 2024?



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 want to update your contact details , email our Membership Services team MembershipServices@britishlegion.org.uk

Quick links

[Membership](#)

[Get support](#)

[Poppy Shop](#)

Contact

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MembershipServices@britishlegion.org.uk



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The Royal British Legion is the UK's leading Service charity. We provide practical care, advice and support to serving members of the Armed Forces, veterans of all ages and their families.

We value your feedback, [please tell us how we did](#).

If you do not wish to receive any further information by e-mail of selected products and services from the Royal British Legion you can [unsubscribe here](#).