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Merry Christmas

Thank you for supporting
our vital work in 2023



Happy Christmas from RBL's National Chair

Dear Member

This has been another momentous year for all of us who serve the needs of our beneficiaries whether we work at a local, regional or national level. We have each remembered, celebrated and supported our beneficiaries and all those who have served our country in so many different and varied ways that it is impossible to recount them here.

As we come to the year end and the celebrations of this festive period begin, let's take some time to remember how lucky we are to be a part of this wonderful charity, and how much service to others adds to our own lives.

There will be many within our armed forces family and beyond unable to celebrate, and we keep all of them in our thoughts and hope for better things for them as 2024 begins. We will of course play our part if asked, as we do every day of the year.

So I thank each of you all for all you have done to support our cause this year, and wish you and your families all the very best for Christmas and for the year beyond.

With my warmest wishes

Jason

And our supporters and volunteers have helped us



raise millions of pounds through the Poppy Appeal.



Looking back at RBL's vital work in 2023

Thanks to your ongoing support RBL has achieved so much in 2023. We've launched a new sustainable plastic-free poppy, delivered Team UK to the Invictus Games in Dusseldorf, remembered the service and sacrifice of all those who served in the Korean War, explored the connections between the Armed Forces and the Windrush generation, and raised millions of pounds thanks to the hard work of our supporters and volunteers during the Poppy Appeal.

[Watch the video](#)



RBL campaigns to appoint a Veterans' Commissioner

RBL has launched a campaign calling on the UK Government to appoint a Veterans' Commissioner for England, so that veterans know who to call on for advocacy and support at the heart of UK government. It has been a great success with over 1,000 people signing our petition, helping us show the UK Government that RBL supporters want the support of a Veterans' Commissioner. We have delivered petition signatures to the Government and we will share with you the outcome of this important campaign once we've heard.

[Join our community](#)

From the National Chaplain to the Royal British Legion

The Christian community will celebrate the coming of the Christ-Child in this Christmas season. The Holy Child was born in humility, fled as a refugee and was born into a world of fear. His message was always to bring light, hope and peace. Our world today, in so many places, needs to know something of that light, hope and peace. Whatever our creed, or none, may that be our prayer or aspiration this Christmas time.

We remember too our Armed Forces community, particularly those who are deployed and separated from their loved ones over this period. In the Royal British Legion, to our Forces personnel, and their families, and our veterans, may all we do bring too that same light, hope and peace.

Wishing you a peaceful Christmas, and with my best wishes,
Scott

Rev Scott J Brown
National Chaplain



A new training approach for members

Our Membership Learning and Development team has launched a new [Learning and Development Plan](#) for 2024. It's based on membership feedback and is designed to support branches and members, providing them with the skills needed for their role. Training will be accessible via 'Discover', our new Learning Management System, which provides access to updated courses and much more learning than before.

[Register today](#)



Annual Conference 2024 registration

Registration to attend Annual Conference 2024 in Newport, Wales as a delegate or visitor opens 00.01am [8th January 2024](#). Our hybrid attendance options mean that all members can attend online and delegates can cast their branch's votes online. The debate is a major part of the Conference Programme, during which delegates can propose, second or speak for or against Motions, and branch delegates cast their branch's votes.

[Register from 8th Jan](#)



A gift to commemorate the Dambusters' Raid

AVI-8 recently launched the Dambuster 80th anniversary [Royal British Legion Meca-Quartz](#) timepiece to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Dambusters' Raid. The RBL's two petal poppy detail appears on the face, second hand and crown as a reminder of the service and sacrifices made by the 617



Explore, discover and remember at the NMA

The [National Memorial Arboretum](#) is the nation's year-round place to remember. It's a beautiful and inspiring place, with 150-acres of arboretum forming a living landscape that is home to more than 400 memorials and is free to enter. Whether you're looking for a convenient place to meet friends and family

Squadron during Operation Chastise and Armed Forces personnel throughout WWII. They donate £17 from each sale of the limited-edition timepiece to RBL.

[Find out more](#)

over the Christmas period or want a peaceful place to explore, it's open to all and is closed only on Christmas Day.

[Plan your visit](#)



Challenge yourself in 2024 and help the RBL

New year, new challenge? Join us to Run 50 Miles in January. Run it your own way, with a few miles a day or save them up for big runs. [Sign up today](#) for your FREE t-shirt.

[Sign up today](#)



Connecting RBL members across the world

RBL received contact from the Hadleigh Branch asking us to support a member who wanted to view his father's grave in



Golden Charter supports RBL during Remembrance

Golden Charter's UK-wide network of independent Funeral Directors once again created some impressive window displays over

Kanchanaburi war cemetery in Thailand. The member is too elderly to travel so the best solution was to photograph his father's grave. [RBL's Thailand Branch](#) contacted one of our members in the area, thanks to our extensive branch network, who kindly visited and photographed the grave for the relatives back home to let them know their loved one, no matter where their resting place, is remembered.

[Find out more](#)

the Remembrance period to honour the service of our Armed Forces community. We have worked in partnership with [Golden Charter](#) since 2016, and many participating Funeral Directors are also RBL members. We are so grateful for their continued support. We chose Neil and Sonya Milsted's as the winning window design!

[Find out more](#)

Going back in time



From the Royal British Legion Magazine December 1961

One of the things you don't expect to see in a Legion club-room in Dublin is a room full of Irish Army soldiers. A party of 18 from St Bricin's Hospital took on a Legion team in a quiz and won 53-51 at Bachelors Walk. The winning wasn't important. What was, was that one of the best parties in the

city that night brought veterans of the Rhine and Normandy, Flanders and the Congo (who fought in different wars and armies), together.

This month's poll

Are you attending or planning a Christmas get-together with fellow RBL members?

1. Yes, I am organising/helping in the organisation of a Branch event/activity
2. Yes, I am planning to attend a Branch Christmas event/activity
3. Yes, I am taking part in an activity including welfare calls
4. No, I am not attending a Branch Christmas activity/event
5. No, I am not aware of a Branch Christmas activity/get together taking place
6. Other

[Take part in the poll](#)

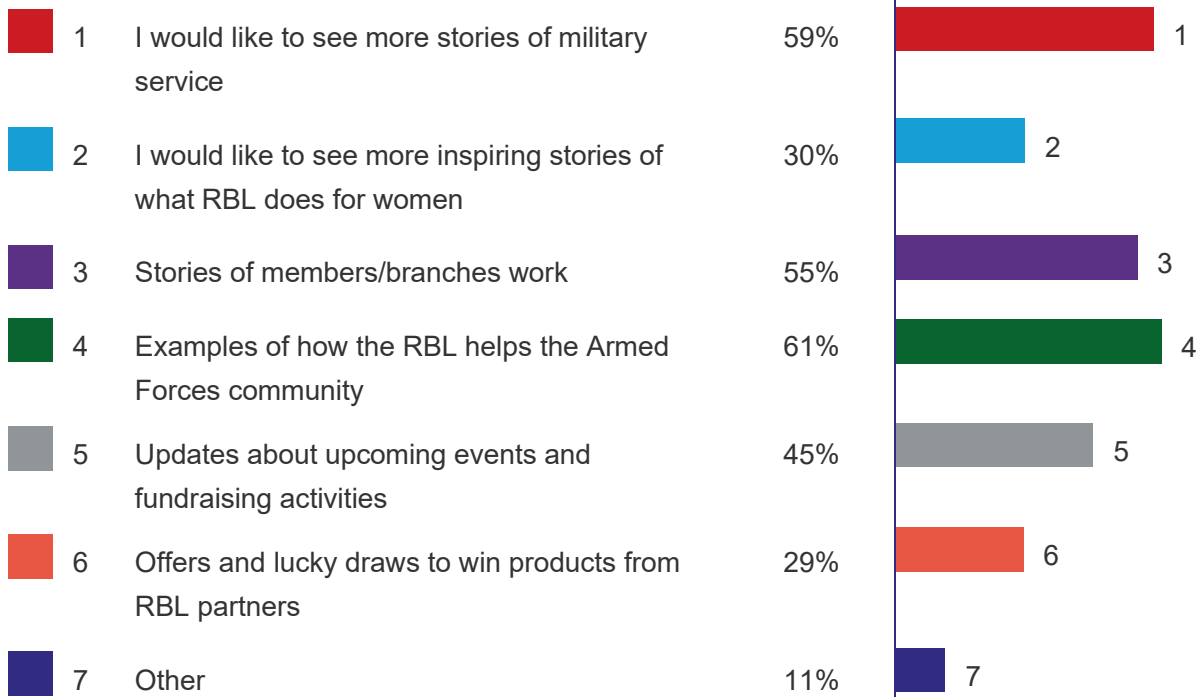
Last month's poll

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

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

Quick links

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[Poppy Shop](#)

Contact

Royal British Legion
Haig House
199 Borough High Street
London SE1 1AA

MembershipServices@britishlegion.org.uk



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Royal British Legion, Haig House, 199 Borough High Street, London SE1 1AA | Registered Charity No 219279

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](#)

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