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Celebrating all Armed Forces members

Recognising their service
in Armed Forces Week



Remembering Air Marshal David Walker CB CBE AFC

It is with great sadness that we share the passing of former National President, Air Marshal David Walker CB CBE AFC, (pictured above at the Festival of Remembrance).

David had been battling cancer for some time and died on Sunday 18 June. David joined the RAF in 1978, completing tours in Germany, the US and the UK before becoming the Military Assistant to the Minister of Defence. He was appointed Assistant Chief of the Air Staff in 2003 and became Deputy Commander of the NATO Joint Force Command before retiring from the RAF in 2013. David completed his term as our National President in May 2019.

Our thoughts are with his family and friends at this difficult time.



Armed Forces Week

Armed Forces Week, which began Monday 19th June, is a chance to show our support for the men and women who make up the Armed



Windrush 75

22nd June is Windrush Day – the 75th anniversary of the Empire Windrush bringing settlers from the Caribbean. In the Second

Forces community: from currently serving troops to reservists, Service families, veterans, and cadets. The Week culminates with [Armed Forces Day](#) which takes place on Saturday 24th June. There are many ways for people, communities and organisations across the country to show their support and get involved, from attending an event to throwing a party or local event. Check with your branch about local events.

[Find out more](#)



Teenage pilot takes to the skies with 100 veterans

Nathaniel McMurray is flying 100 military veterans over the skies of Manchester to raise money for RBL this summer. The 18 year old from Urmston is offering free 20-minute flights to anyone who has served in the British Armed Forces. The flights take place at Barton Aerodrome in Manchester. Find out more – and sponsor him - via his [Just Giving](#) page, with all the proceeds going to the RBL. Contact springle@britishlegion.org.uk for the remaining slots on Saturday 8th July and Saturday 5th August.

[Sign up today](#)

World War 16,000 Caribbean people volunteered to serve. After the war thousands stayed and in subsequent decades many more settlers joined the Services. The sense of solidarity and perseverance of the Windrush Generation is reflected in their Armed Forces service. To highlight their contribution RBL has partnered with the [National Windrush Museum](#) in projects including webpages and exhibitions.

[Find out more](#)



Hari Budha Maga - Ghurka and RBL member – climbs Everest

On 19th May 2023, Hari Budha Maga became the world's first double above-the-knee amputee to climb Everest. In doing so, he has helped to inspire and change perceptions around disability. Hari lost both of his legs in Afghanistan following an IED explosion in 2010. Since then, he has worked continually to positively transform the way people with a disability are perceived, and how they perceive themselves. To find out more about his journey, or to donate to the costs of the expedition, visit www.haribudhamagar.com

[Find out more about Hari](#)



Aspects at the NMA wins award!

Aspects at the [National Memorial Arboretum](#) has been named as VisitEngland's Business Events Venue of the Year in a prestigious awards ceremony on 7 June. The award recognises business events venues that demonstrate an excellent understanding of the market, exceed the expectations of their clients and have a strategic plan for future development within this area, with clear goals. Congratulations to all at the NMA on this achievement.

[Find out more](#)



Summer Proms at the NMA-4-5 August

This year's [Summer Proms](#) promises to deliver a fabulous evening of live music set within stunning surroundings. Featuring the Band of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, mezzo-soprano Louise Callinan and baritone Rodney Earl Clarke, the programme will include toe-tapping hits from award-winning musicals, Proms favourites and a firework finale. A limited number of Premier experience tickets are available. [View a taster](#) of what's in store in the show.

[Book your tickets](#)



June is Pride month

In 2019 RBL launched its first ever LGBTQ+ branch, 19 years since the UK Government lifted the ban on gay and bisexual people serving in the Armed Forces. Ann Miller-McCaffrey, currently serving in the Royal Navy, and part of a tri services diversity engagement team, is a founding member of the branch.



Pride Month: Kala's story

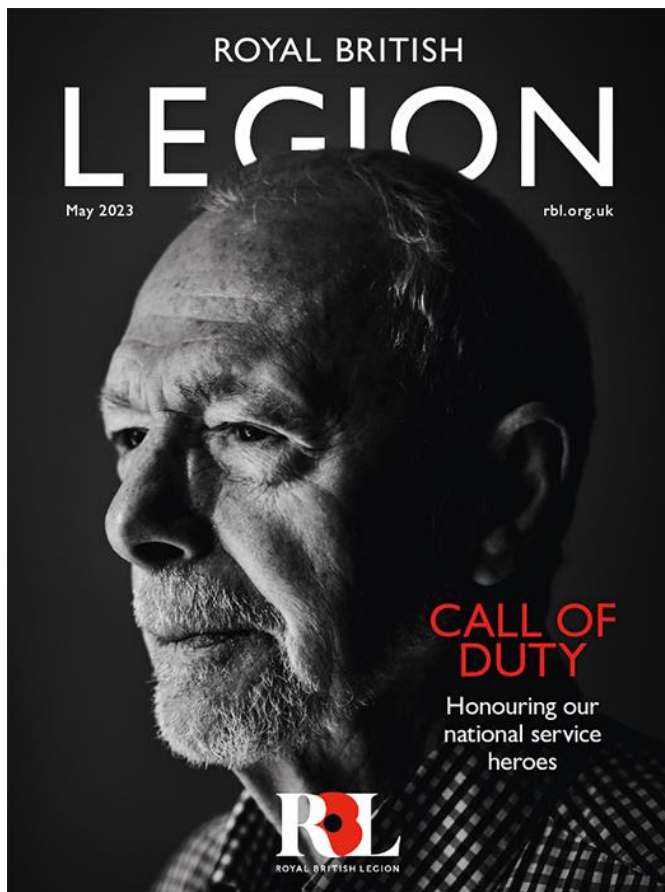
With a long family history in the Armed Forces, Kala (they/them), always knew they wanted to join the military and "never expected to do anything else". Training as an aircraft mechanic Kala was proud to serve. Sadly in 1993, Kala was the victim of homophobic assaults from two colleagues. This had a huge

Here she talks about why it is important that the Armed Forces community have access to community groups like the LGBTQ+ branch, and how things have changed since the ban was lifted.

[Read the interview](#)

psychological impact on Kala which led to their attempted suicide. After becoming homeless Kala contacted RBL for support as a beneficiary, joining the LGBTQ+ Allies branch and moving into veteran's accommodation.

[Join the LGBTQ+ branch](#)



Read the RBL Magazine

The May issue of Legion Magazine is now available. In addition to previewing both the coronation of HM the King and the Royal British Legion's Annual Conference, we also hear from Jason Coward as he reflects on his first year as National Chair. In addition, seven veterans give us their memories of National Service and, 75 years after the arrival of HMT Empire Windrush, we remember those Caribbean men and women who helped to rebuild Britain after the Second World War.

[Read your RBL Magazine](#)



Have you been disadvantaged due to receiving military compensation?

Armed Forces compensation is often considered an income source when benefit rates are calculated, whilst civil compensation



Your chance to hear all about the latest developments at RBL

Join us on **Tuesday 11 July at 7-8pm** for our latest Membership Town hall. We're still finalising the agenda but, as always, the event

is not. RBL are campaigning to fix this. But we need your help. If you or someone you know has applied for any benefits while receiving Armed Forces compensation of any kind, please get in touch with us. Sharing your experience will help us to end this unfair treatment of the Armed Forces community.

[Contact us here](#)

will finish with a live Q&A session which anyone can join in on. We're hosting this on teams.

Please use this link to gain access on the day. From previous experience, we recommend you download Teams before trying to log on.

[Join the Townhall here](#)

Did you know that...



On Saturday 20 May, Shonagh MacDonald, the Membership Engagement Officer (MEO) for Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland Districts, organised a Conference Hub in the Belfast office. The aim was to give those branches and delegates who couldn't get to Torquay a chance to experience Conference and take part in the voting. Delegates were able to log-in and vote on personal devices. Everyone enjoyed being able to experience Conference as well as catching up on old friendships.



Our Republic of Ireland contingent is small, but keen and determined. John O'Donoghue is one of the newer members of the Cork Branch, and a seasoned marathon runner, so it made sense for him to combine these interests to raise some money for the branch, by running the Cork City Marathon. His advice to any potential marathon runners? "Get plenty of miles into the legs, take no days off, eat whatever you want and never ignore your blisters!"

Going back in time



From the Royal British Legion Magazine June 1921

When the Women's Section's first Patron H.R.H. Princess Mary got married the Women's Section members collected donations to buy her a wedding gift of a lacquered cabinet made by disabled soldiers, and also presented her with the Women's Section badge in gold and enamel.

This month's poll

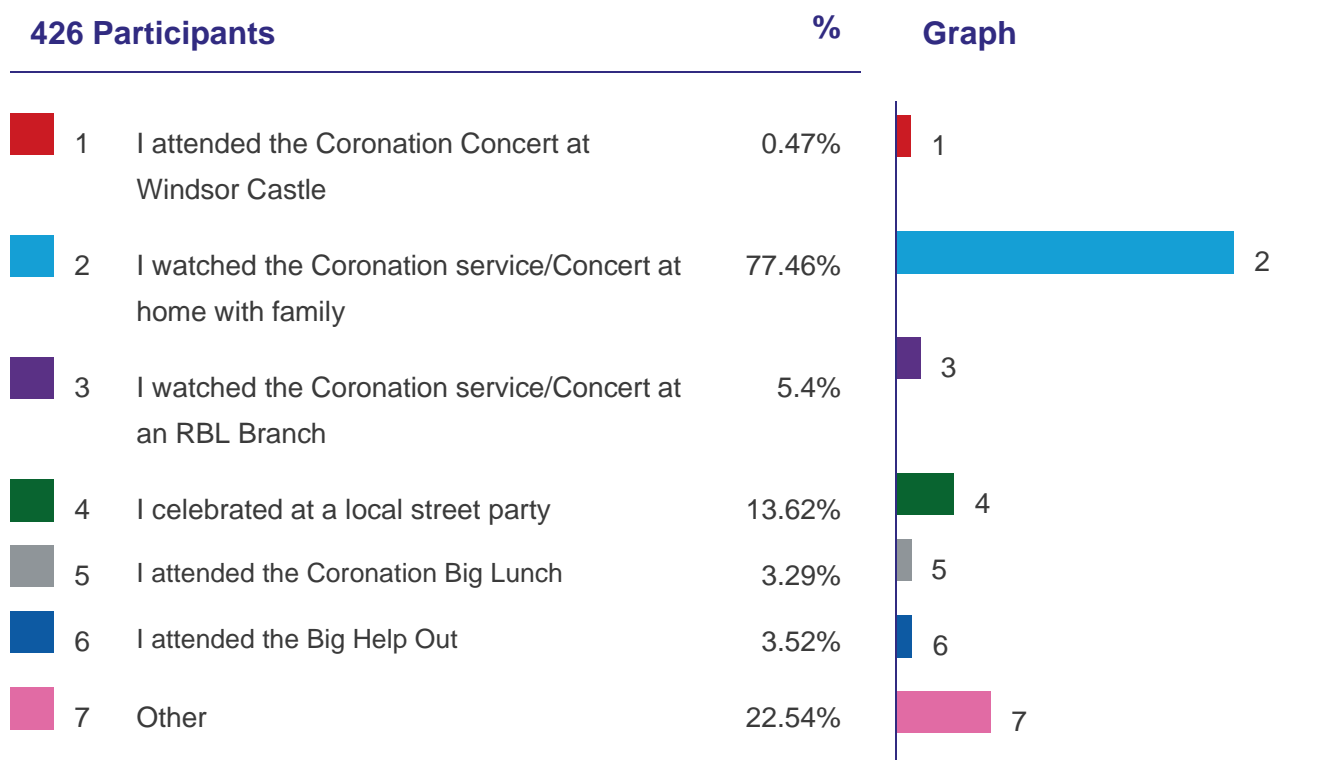
How many years have you served?

1. I am still serving
2. 1-5 years
3. 6-10 years
4. 11+ years
5. I have not served
6. Other

[Take the poll](#)

Last month's poll

Tell us how you marked the occasion of HM King Charles III and Queen Camilla's coronation.



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, please email our Membership Services team MembershipServices@britishlegion.org.uk

Best wishes,

Pete Wylie

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Quick links

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Contact

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