



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 24/25 April 2015
Gloucester Beer and
Cider Festival
- 26 April 2015
ANZAC Service
Leighterton
- 8 May 2015
Robinswood Hill
Beacon Lighting
- 9 May 2015 VE 70th
Commemoration
Service of Thanks-
giving Gloucester
War Memorial
- 16/17 May 2015 RBL
National Confer-
ence—Southport
- Gloucester Armed
Forces Day —
Saturday 27 June
2015 — RBL Stall
and parade
- 15 August 2015 VJ
Day
- 5 September 2015
Gloucester Day—
RBL Street Stall
- 1 November 2015
Gloucester City
Festival of
Remembrance
- 8 November 2015
Remembrance
Sunday
- 11 November 2015
Two Minutes Silence
Eastgate Mall
Gloucester

RBL Helpline

**Contact
Centre**

**0808 802
8080**

9 Stagecoach VC & GC buses get RBL Riders escort



Stagecoach West will run five of the commemorative buses in Gloucester, two in Cheltenham and another two in Ross-on-Wye. Grp Capt Anny Reid (RAF) Rtd, Gloucestershire County Chairman, Royal British Legion worked with Stagecoach on the campaign after a Stagecoach bus launched the charity's Poppy Appeal in 2013. Anny was beaming with pride when her idea came to life on 16 March at Gloucester Cathedral.

The buses will be taken to schools and colleges to take the soldiers' stories to the younger generation. Nathan Griffith-Williams, Marketing Manager of Stagecoach West, said: "This is a way of celebrating these heroes. The main aim is to acknowledge what they did and tell their stories."

The Victoria Cross or George Cross winners honoured by the buses range from Surgeon HT Reade, who won his award in 1857 in Delhi, to three Glorious Glosters who were awarded their medals during the Korean War in 1951. Garry Mills, RBL Gloucester City Branch Chairman said: "The stories of people who have won the Victoria or George Cross need to be told. They set examples for the rest of us. We want these names and deeds to live on and, hopefully, this project will do that."

Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum have mounted an exhibition outlining the VC deeds of heroism and leaflets are available on board the buses with a coupon for entry to the museum at a special rate.



£58,400 collected so far!

Gloucester City Poppy Appeal now stands at £58,400. This is a staggering amount of money kindly donated by the people of Gloucester. Bob Perkins, Branch Poppy Appeal Organiser, really believes that we will hit £60,000 for the Appeal 2014/15. We know that with your help we will have a darned good try! The Appeal runs from October to end of September each year. So such success in this year means more hard work for 2015/16. You can volunteer to help and be part of the Poppy Appeal.

Further letter to the City Member of Parliament

Dear Richard Graham, MP

Further to my previous correspondence on behalf of Gloucester City Branch, Royal British Legion, regarding the unfair treatment of injured veterans within the social care system, thank you for your comments regarding our work for the serving and ex service community that we serve. I write today to ask that you continue to make representations to the Care Minister, Norman Lamb MP, about this urgent issue and to share that with us, your constituents.

You will recall that under current guidance, War Pensioners injured prior to 2005 see all but the first £10 per week of their military compensation routinely treated as normal income in social care means tests. Yet veterans injured after 2005 (who receive Armed Forces Compensation Scheme payments) and civilians injured in the workplace can expect their compensation to be fully exempted.

The Department of Health recently gave three key reasons why some injured veterans are uniquely asked to surrender their military compensation to pay for their care. Here is why the Royal British Legion and I don't think they stack up:

1. "Social care has never been free and people have always been asked to make a contribution" We want veterans injured pre-2005 to make the same contribution to their social care as those injured post-2005 and their civilian counterparts. Military compensation payments should not be counted as normal income when local authorities determine what their personal contribution should be.
2. "The Armed Forces Compensation Scheme, which was introduced in 2005, operates differently" Despite differences in administration, we believe both schemes are designed to deliver the same aim: to compensate injured veterans for the pain and loss of amenity experienced as a result of an injury in Service. Treating one group of veterans less favorably than another, purely on the basis of when they were injured, is grossly unfair.
3. "The War Pensions Scheme... provides a range of allowances in addition to the basic war disablement pension. Some of these allowances are designed specifically to pay for the ongoing care costs associated with an individual's disability"

Only 6% of War Pensioners receive additional allowances related to their care yet all War Pensioners can be asked to surrender all but £10 of their military compensation. Furthermore, to prevent the State from paying out twice for the same care needs, we accept that those allowances which are specifically designed to meet certain care costs could be included in an income assessment.

The 70th anniversary of VE Day is set to be commemorated on 8th May. It would be a fitting tribute to the bravery and sacrifice of that generation of War Pensioners if the Government could announce that all injured veterans will now be able to retain their military compensation in full when accessing support for their care. I urge you to write to the Minister so that this might yet become a reality.

Yours sincerely,

Garry Mills, FInstSMM, MIMA(Cert) RBL Gloucester City Branch Chairman

COMMENT!

The Branch received a letter from our sitting Member of Parliament in response to the Social Care "Insult to injury" campaign initial letter. We will now have to wait until after 8 May 2015 to see who will be responding to the Branch as Parliament is now dissolved. All members will receive a copy of the MP's initial response that prompted a second letter being written.

Victory in Europe - 70 years on Gloucester to mark the Commemoration



Members and their friends will be glad to know that arrangements are now well underway to allow the citizens of Gloucester to participate in the VE Day Celebrations and Commemoration over 8 to 10 May.

The Civics have agreed that there will be two events in the City. A Beacon Lighting at Robinswood Hill Country Park on the evening of Friday 8 May 2015 at which it is hoped that three representatives from the Cadet Forces will light the Beacon. A Second World War Veteran, Mr. Bill Howell, a former Corporal Engine Fitter in the RAF, a local resident of Gloucester, will say a few words in tribute to those who served in the military and to the brave men and women of the "Home Front" who did so much to aid the War Effort to ensure final victory over fascism.

On Saturday 9 May 2015 a short Wreath Laying and Service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving will take place at the City War Memorial, Gloucester Park, Trier Way, Gloucester, assembling at 10.30am. The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Gloucester will lead the City in our tributes to the fallen and the Religious Service will be led by the Mayor's Chaplain, Fr John Ward, Vicar of St James Quedgeley.

Wreaths will be laid by a representative of the Armed Forces, the member of Parliament for the City of Gloucester and the Royal British Legion.

Members of the public are cordially invited to attend. A good turn out of Branch Members would be appreciated. The County and City Standards will be on parade.

ARRC send letter of thanks

Following on from the decision of the Branch to fund the application for the provision of a suitable vehicle for the personnel and families at Allied Rapid Reaction Corps the Branch received a letter from Brigadier Alex Deas in which he expressed his thanks and the thanks of all in the command to RBL Gloucester City for the donation of £5,000. This money enabled ARRC to move forward with their project to provide a Welfare Vehicle for use across the Command. The vehicle will be used for Welfare matters, sports and cohesion events. This will give the personnel and their dependents a much needed asset and will be made use of by all.



Service Not Self



RBL Gloucester City Branch

Trinity Centre

Norbury Avenue, Matson

Gloucester, GL4 6AG

Tel: 01452 305438

Alternative day time 0900hrs to 1600hrs

Monday to Thursday number is 01452

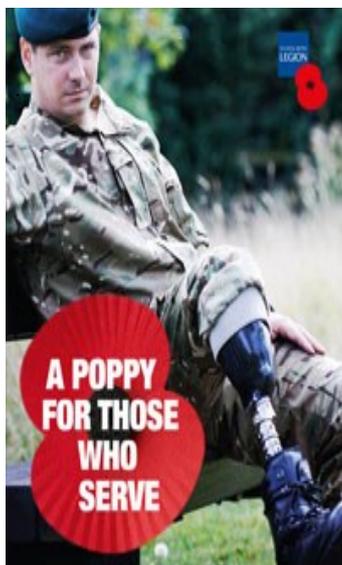
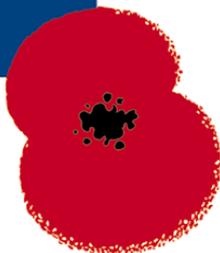
505544 and ask for Garry

Gloucester City Branch of the Royal British Legion meets on the first Friday of each month at 8.00pm in The Residents Lounge, Duke of Beaufort Court, Podsmead Road, Gloucester, GL1 5UB. If travelling by car please park in Chaucer Close and walk through in to Duke of Beaufort Court, the Residents Lounge is on the left. Stagecoach Number 10 Bus serves the Podsmead area and a bus stop is on Podsmead Road, there is gated access from near the stop.

The RBL is open for membership to all serving members of the Armed Forces, ex service personnel and anyone who can subscribe to our aims and objectives. To join you do not need to have served in the forces.

If you would like more information on the RBL please contact our secretary or any Branch member. For assistance from the RBL please call 0808 802 8080 to speak to our Call Centre.

THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION



We would like to stay in touch with you about upcoming Royal British Legion events in your Area.

By providing your contact details, you agree to be contacted by the Royal British Legion.

Name:

Address:

Post Code:

Phone No:

Mobile No:

Email Address:

I am interested in (Please tick all that apply):

Membership

Volunteering

Upcoming Events

Making a donation

Please cut this out and return it to our Branch Office at:

**RBL Gloucester City Branch, Trinity Centre, Norbury Ave, Matson
Gloucester, GL4 6AG**

Or hand to one of our members.