



Central News – April 2023

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Important dates	
14 April 2023	Deadline for registering delegates at Annual Conference
25 April 2023 - 19:00-20:00	<u>Membership Town Hall</u>
26 April 2023 - 19:00-20:30	County Youth Officers Online Session
6-8 May 2023	HM The King's Coronation
19-21 May 2023	Annual Conference

Jo Cox Foundation

RBL is working with the Jo Cox Foundation to draw on their ideas to bring communities together which our Branches may want to get involved with. Each year they have an annual celebration called the Great Get Together which is a celebration of what we have in common, bringing together our communities and rejecting division. This is inspired by Jo Cox MP's message that 'we have more in common than that which divides us' it aims to reach across divides and offers a chance to showcase what you do to unite your community.

This year's Great Get Together is being held between the 23rd - 25th of June, and they would love RBL to get involved!

It's a fantastic opportunity to really show how your Branch sits at the centre of your community and to reach out to new people. If you'd like to find out more please go to greatgettogether.org or email hello@greatgettogether.org. We'd love to have you involved!

Annual Conference: 19-21 May 2023

Last Chance to Register

Annual Conference is fast approaching with **registration closing at 5pm on Friday 14th April 2023** and we really hope you are able to join us at this annual event for members. To register as a delegate please use the app found on the Membership Administration Portal (MAP) [here](#). There is now a guidance booklet and [video on MAP](#) showing a step-by-step process of how to register for Annual Conference. To register as an in-person or online visitor please use the online [Visitors Application Form](#). Delegates are those that attend as a representative of their branch and will have the right to vote on motions. Visitors do not have voting rights but are welcome to attend the conference.

If you are wanting to check registration details on behalf of your branch, please check first with the delegate to confirm if they have received their registration email. If not, your MEO can support you if you are having issues confirming these details. Alternatively, you can contact the Annual Conference inbox annualconference@britishlegion.org.uk, but please note we are currently dealing with a large number of enquiries through this channel, so there may be a delay in getting a response to you.

Spring Circular

We have recently sent out the Spring Circular to give final registration details, plus the provisional agenda. Documents were also shared on the Motions and Omission Booklets, and further information about the post of National Chair of Membership and Appointed Chair. This has been sent to all branches via their RBL Community email addresses, so we have encouraged MEOs and

County Chairs to share the information with branches that are not on 365.

Membership Forum

On the Saturday of Conference, The Membership Forum will have members of the Board of Trustees joining the Membership Council for the first time. They will take your questions on any aspect of Legion life. Questions can be submitted in advance by sending them in an email to the Annual Conference inbox annualconference@britishlegion.org.uk, or asked on the day, in person or online.

Keynote Speaker Professor Gavin Oxburgh

On the Sunday and closing day of Conference, we will be joined by our keynote speaker, Professor Gavin Oxburgh. Professor Oxburgh is a registered forensic psychologist, a chartered psychologist, scientist, and a professor of police science. He is the Assistant Director of the Northern Hub for Veteran Military Families Research based at Northumbria University Newcastle. He is a registered expert witness, providing advice on legal cases in the UK and overseas. Working in close collaboration with many police forces and law enforcement agencies around the world he also provides specialist advice and training to the investigation division of the International Criminal Court (ICC) at The Haig and sits on a UN led international Steering Committee. A 22-year military veteran he served in the RAF Police as a senior detective. He is also a member of the Royal British Legion.

Charter Motions

Following on from the circulation of the County Chairs Seminar pack and discussions at our County Chairs Conference some weeks ago, we have been reviewing your feedback on the proposed Charter Motions, and noted the concerns raised. In response, we have listened and revisited the proposals as evidenced in the Spring Circular. There will be an opportunity for you ask questions in relation to this proposed change at a Q&A event, details for which will be sent out soon.

In the meantime, if you have any comments or queries, please could you direct these to the following email: trusteeelections@britishlegion.org.uk

Gift In Wills

The Gift in Wills Team is busy preparing lots of information and resources to share with you at Annual Conference. We thoroughly enjoyed meeting many of you last year at the Conference and Membership Meet Ups and we're really looking forward to seeing you again and meeting those of you we haven't met.

We'll be back and so will our sofas so come and see us for a chat and ask any questions you may

have about writing or updating your Will or about any gifts in Wills that have been left to your Branch or County. You can also hear directly from staff about the impact gifts in Wills make to the Royal British Legion.

It's also a great time to let us know if you would like any gift in Wills resources to take back to your branch to share our free Will-writing services with your local community and networks and we will have these delivered.

If you would like some resources to take back to your Branches or County, or you've got a question about a legacy or gift that has been left to your Branch/County, please let us know by emailing legacies@britishlegion.org.uk, by **Tuesday 18th April 2023**. This will help us to ensure we have enough resources for you and can look into any answers to your questions beforehand.

We look forward to seeing you next month. Remember to come and collect your Poppy goodie bag!

County Youth Officers

In February, County Youth Officers (CYO) completed the Community Development Team's Youth Survey. Following on from this, we're now inviting CYOs to attend a 90-minute online session ahead of Annual Conference on **Wednesday 26th April 19:00-20:30** where we will:

- Present the One Legion Youth Strategy.
- Feedback findings from the CYO survey.
- Provide an opportunity to discuss both the strategy and your comments from the survey in more depth.

The session will be recorded, and a link shared for anyone who is unable to attend.

An email and Teams Meeting link has been sent out to the CYOs on Monday 3rd April. Please reach out to your CYOs and encourage their attendance.

Volunteer Expenses

The volunteer expenses form states that by submitting the form members confirm that they have a valid driver's licence, road tax, MOT and insurance which covers business use. If you are using your vehicle to carry out any volunteering activity, you must check with your insurance company to make them aware. Some car insurance companies require you to state if you are using your car for business use, which volunteering would fall under. This will ensure that you are covered when using

your car for any RBL activities. It often costs nothing to add business use if your insurance company does require that you have it.

The King's Coronation

The Royal British Legion is honoured, on behalf of the Department for Culture, Media & Sport, to **offer our veteran community** a limited number of tickets to observe part of the ceremonial procession for the Coronation of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla on Saturday 6 May 2023.

The tickets will allocate you and a guest seats within the Grandstand situated by the Queen Victoria Memorial, which will be an excellent viewpoint for the processions and military manoeuvres, as well as a view of the balcony and flypast.

- Estimated timings below.
 - 06:30 - Gates open
 - 08:30 - All attendees must be seated
 - 09:00 – Military movements begin
 - 14:30 – End of event

Please note it will be a long day, sitting outside with no opportunity to exit and re-enter the grandstand zone once inside. You are of course free to leave early should you wish. There will be toilets, water, and refreshment facilities within the zone to purchase food and drink, you can bring your own food and drink. We recommend you bring sunhats, sunglasses, umbrellas as the grandstand is a fully open tiered seating structure.

There will be audio of the ceremony available over speakers, **but no large screens** to view the service.

Those that are successful will receive a confirmation email week commencing 17 April directly from the event organiser.

An entry ticket (a QR code and optional print-at-home PDF) will then be sent to the same email addresses 1 week before the event. This will contain full joining instructions including walking routes, confirmed timings and what to bring.

To submit your application please complete details of the main ticket holder only via the link below (each submission will include a guest ticket) by **4pm Thursday 13 April**.

[Coronation of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla - Veteran Opportunity](#)

Please note this is not a Royal British Legion event and we are unable to answer any queries. This is also an offer exclusively available for our veteran community. Further joining instructions will accompany your confirmation email.

Membership Townhall

The date for the next Membership Town Hall is **Tuesday 25 April** 19:00-20:00. Please save the date in your diaries. To access the Townhall [please follow this link.](#)

Town halls will now be held quarterly but will keep the existing format of presentations from senior RBL staff, followed by a Q&A session.

Membership Management Handbook

As approved by the Membership Council on 4th March 2023, please find the latest version of the [Membership Management Handbook](#) on MAP. There are quite a few amendments, including updating the job title of Membership Support Officer (MSO) to Membership Engagement Officer (MEO).
