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THE LEGION'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19

The health of our members, volunteers
and people we support is our priority.



IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT COVID-19 FROM THE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

Dear Member,

I understand that this can be a worrying time and wanted to reiterate what the Legion has been doing to plan and prepare as the situation with the COVID-19 outbreak continues to develop.

The health of our members, volunteers, people we support and Legion employees is our priority. The Government has been very clear in their advice on self-isolating and social distancing, and we are strongly encouraging all our members to follow the advice given.

Events and meetings

We strongly recommend that all meetings are cancelled or postponed, including branch and county meetings, and that members follow the government's advice, particularly guidance on social distancing for the over 70's and vulnerable people.

I am sorry to say that we have had to make the decision to cancel this year's Annual Conference in its current form. We will be exploring other options and next steps and will keep you informed of our plans around this. All of the Legion's fundraising events until the end of June have been postponed and we will make efforts to reschedule these at a future date where possible. All three Membership meet-ups for this year have been cancelled.

With regards to the VE Day commemorations, the Legion has taken the difficult decision not to continue with plans to facilitate attendance for members of the Second World War generation at events in London for VE75. The Legion is working with the Government to develop alternative commemorations for VE Day.

The Legion has also taken the difficult decision not to continue with planned events in Bayeux to commemorate the 76th anniversary of D-Day. We are continuing to identify ways that we can still commemorate the anniversary of D-Day on Saturday 6th June.

Due to the exceptional nature of the crisis the Church of England has announced that public worship is suspended until further notice. Accordingly we are asking that Standard Bearers do not attend any funerals they may have been asked to attend, and do not undertake any further public duties until advised.

Branch Community Support and volunteering

We also need to ensure that while we maintain our service, we are protecting both the people we support and our Branch Community Support volunteers. To that end, from now until advised otherwise, please avoid making any home visits to beneficiaries and instead explore other options.

There are many ways by which we can continue to provide much needed support to those who may be feeling more isolated than ever at this time. Our telephone buddy service is a vital route through which we can check that individuals in our community feel supported; are safe and well; and continue to have a connection. We would also like to ask that our Branches make regular telephone contact with those individuals who you know are, or may be, particularly vulnerable at this time. We need to make sure that everyone has sufficient food and access to their medication, as well as the reassurance that their needs are being considered.

The Royal British Legion has an important role to play in ensuring that if the most vulnerable in our society need to be more socially isolated, they will not be forgotten and a friendly voice is at hand. Through our extensive local networks we are well placed to support the national effort and we are working on plans with partners and other organisations to stand together in face of these difficult and unsettling circumstances.

If you become very concerned about an individual, please do not hesitate to contact us on 0808 802 8080 and the Area Welfare Team can provide appropriate support. The Legion's 15 Pop In Centres on high streets around the UK have now closed until it is safe to reopen them.

Thank you in advance for your patience and continued support for the Legion during this time. Please stay safe, follow the Government's advice, and through both what we do and how we do it, we will continue to play a vital role in supporting our community and nations.

With very best wishes,

M. Cleminson

Una Cleminson
National Chairman



VETERANS ON HOW THEIR LIVES HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY COVID-19

‘With coronavirus, there are no guarantees as to what will happen, but people will pull together and they will strengthen each other.’ WWII Veteran Mervyn Kersch said. As the government is advising social distancing and self-isolation, veterans and older people are facing the prospect of having to stay at home for weeks. Here is what some WWII Veterans had to say about how their lives have been affected.

[Find out more >](#)



TEACHING REMEMBRANCE – VE DAY 75 RESOURCES

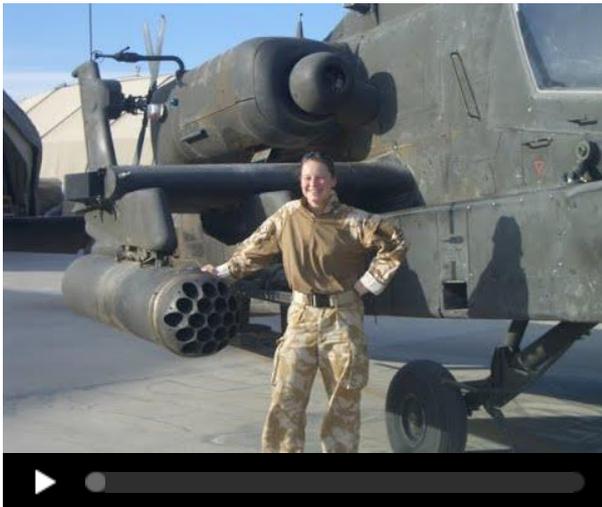
New VE Day educational resources for children aged 7-14 are now available for Legion members and volunteers, teachers, and families to use. School resources are available now via the Legion website, with the home education versions available at the end of March. Please share this with your community.



HOW PLACES LIKE THE DMRC HELP SERVING PERSONNEL

While serving in Afghanistan in 2006, Andy Barlow ran into a minefield to help an injured fellow soldier but he got injured and his leg was amputated. After leaving hospital, Andy spent time at Headley Court and he now credits his time there, and being around other injured soldiers, as a catalyst for his rehabilitation.

[Find out more >](#)



RECOGNISING SERVICEWOMEN'S CONTRIBUTIONS

This Women's History Month we are celebrating everything the women of the Armed Forces community have achieved. In the video above Lisa Evans, an Army veteran who saw tours of Iraq and Afghanistan talks about how she moved hundreds of people around including repatriating soldiers who sadly lost their lives. Visit our Women at War timeline to discover how women's role in the Armed Forces has changed since WWI.

[Visit the Women at War timeline >](#)

[Read Andy's story >](#)

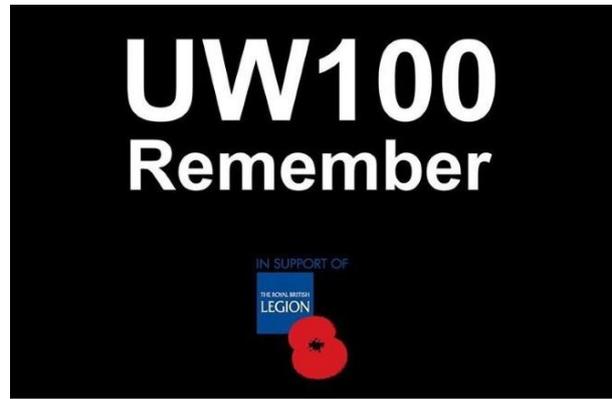


WOMEN'S ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY

Sergeant Hayley Ridgeway joined the Army in 2005 when she was just 15. After completing her basic training, she became a medic, and saw tours of Iraq and Afghanistan. It was while on a tour of Afghanistan in 2011 that Hayley's selfless actions saved the lives of many after her unit were hit by an IED. Hayley is still serving in a non-deployable teaching role training new Army medics, and is also the mother of a three-year-old daughter.

[Read Hayley's story >](#)

Did you know that...



Our short video series showing how we support the Armed Forces community through lifelong challenges has been shortlisted for a Charity Film Award. [Vote for our video](#) until the end of March and help us be in with a chance of winning the People's Choice award.

To commemorate 100 years since the Unknown Warrior was reburied, 16 servicemen and women and civilians will carry a stretcher from France to Westminster Abbey by foot over four days aiming to [raise funds for the Poppy Appeal](#).



CALLING ALL BAKERS TO SHARE YOUR BEST RECIPES

Now is the time to share your secret recipe for carrot cake, or perhaps your famous Victoria sponge! The Legion will encourage its corporate partners to raise money by hosting a bake sale fundraiser later this year and we are looking for recipes to inspire those who will take part. Put forward your recipes by sending them over to corporatepartnerships@britishlegion.org.uk along with a photo of the finished cake for a chance to be included!

Event Notice

At the time this e-newsletter was sent, the event below was still scheduled to go ahead as planned.



JOIN US FOR POPPY RACE DAY 2020 THIS AUGUST AT NEWMARKET

Enjoy a great day of racing with additional entertainment including a Standard Bearers' Parade. **Special discounts** are available for members with Premier Enclosure tickets costing £21 and Grandstand and Paddock £14.25. Call 0344 579 3010 (for 1-9 tickets) and quote **RBL2020** or 01638 675 500 (for groups of 10 or more) – press option 4 and quote **RBL2020**.

[Find out more >](#)

Going back in time

From The Royal British Legion Magazine June, 1927

The Great 'All British' film 'Remembrance'. Already considerable prominence has been given in the Press to the great film 'Remembrance', which is British throughout and is produced under the auspices of the British Legion. A story of love and adventure interwoven with humour inseparable from the British Tommy is perhaps a good way of describing the film. H.R.H. The Prince of Wales, as one might expect from his untiring efforts on behalf of ex-Servicemen, has shown much interest in 'Remembrance' and is by his personal consent included in a portion of the film which depicts a Dug Out Night at a British Legion Rally.



WHERE'S JERRY GOING TO DROP IT?

This month's poll



Many community groups have been launched to support elderly/vulnerable people during this difficult time, have you joined one?

1. Yes
2. Yes I am doing this through my Branch
3. No
4. No but I am looking for other ways to help
5. No because I am currently self-isolating
6. Other

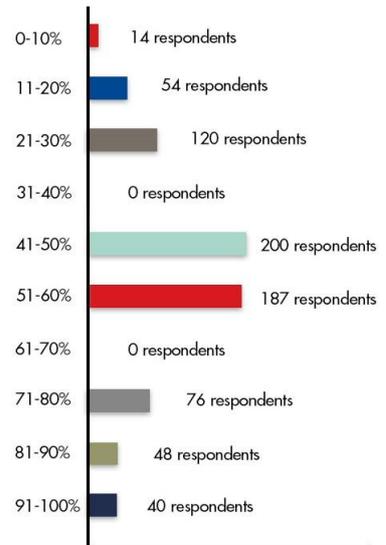
[Take part in the poll >](#)

Last month's quiz

Test your knowledge of VE and VJ Day

739 Participants

- 0-10% correct answers - 14 respondents**
- 11-20% correct answers - 54 respondents**
- 21-30% correct answers - 120 respondents**
- 31-40% correct answers - 0 respondents**
- 41-50% correct answers - 200 respondents**
- 51-60% correct answers - 187 respondents**
- 61-70% correct answers - 0 respondents**
- 71-80% correct answers - 76 respondents**
- 81-90% correct answers - 48 respondents**
- 91-100% correct answers - 40 respondents**



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 the e-newsletter, please don't hesitate to contact me. If you have questions about your membership card or want to change your home or email address please contact our Membership Services team MembershipServices@britishlegion.org.uk

Best wishes,

Dimitra Nikolakopoulou
Membership Communications Officer
membershipcomms@britishlegion.org.uk

FOLLOW THE LEGION



QUICK LINKS

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[Poppy Shop](#)

CONTACT US

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