



Central News – Apr 2022

Inside this issue

Title	Page	Summary
Important dates	1	What's coming in the next couple of months
Board of Trustees elections	2	Deadline for sending votes has changed to 27 th April
Annual Conference	2	Register your delegates and visitors by 8 th April
Membership Meet-Ups	3	Saltash event programme and change of Newcastle event date
Membership Training update	3	Training certificates now available & anniversary of the CTO booking app
Membership Town Hall	4	Programme of an online event on 28 th April
Festival of Remembrance 2022	4	Event theme and key elements
Falklands 40	5	Watch the Falkland 40 th Anniversary video
County/branch websites	5	Sites temporarily down on 19 th April due to maintenance works

Important dates	
8 April 2022	Annual Conference: deadline for registering delegates
9 April 2022	Membership Meet-Up - Saltash
10 April 2022	National Youth Standard Bearers competition
27 April 2022	Board of Trustees elections: deadline for returning ballot papers

Please remember to use this online [form](#) to share your feedback about Central News. Some of you reported that not all links in the previous issue worked correctly. Please email kbrzeska@britishlegion.org.uk with details of any links you cannot access.

Board of Trustees elections

Please remember to send your vote by 5pm Wednesday 27th April

Due to the delays in delivering the voting packs to some branches a decision has been made to provide a further extension of time to enable branches to vote and return their forms. The deadline for receipt of votes by Civica is now **5pm Wednesday 27th April** and we encourage as many eligible branches as possible to return their votes **by email**.

Please return your completed, signed ballot paper by either scanning it and emailing it to support@cesvotes.com or, if you cannot email your votes, by post to:

The Independent Scrutineer
Civica Election Services
The Election Centre
33 Clarendon House
London N8 0NW

Annual Conference 2022

Final call to register your delegates and visitors by 8th April



To register as a delegate please complete this [form](#) on MAP or contact your Membership Support Officer.

To register as a visitor please submit this [form](#).

If your branch is not sending a delegate, please let us know why by completing this very short [survey](#).

The Conference will be held in London from 13-15 May. Online and in person attendees will be able to debate and vote on motions, ask their questions during the Membership Forum and watch the National Chairman, the Director General and other senior representatives share updates about the RBL's strategy. In person attendees will also be able to attend the Standard Bearers competition and visit the exhibition area to meet teams from across the RBL.

The Parade will take place on Sunday 15 May. All participants are asked to register in advance as delegates or visitors. The Parade will start from King Charles Street and will end in Horse Guards Parade with wreaths laid at the Cenotaph, the Earl Haig Memorial and the Women of the Second World War Memorial.

Annual Conference March Special Circular has been published and can be accessed on [MAP](#) or through your MSO.

Membership Meet Ups

In 2022 three meet-ups will take place in Saltash (9 April), Colchester (2 July) and Newcastle (16 July) giving you the opportunity to learn more about all things membership, make valuable connections and socialise with staff and members alike. These one-day events are open to everyone.

The first Meet Up is taking place at the China Fleet Country Club in Saltash (PL12 6LJ) on Saturday 9th April and we have the following workshops in the programme:

- Membership Training
- Campaigns & Policy
- Community Development



Please note that the date of the Newcastle Meet Up has changed and it will take place on Saturday, 16th July.

Remember to register your attendance [here](#).

Membership Training Update

Training Certificates

From 15th April 2022, training certificates will be available for download. Individuals who currently have access to and complete online training will be eligible for the certificates, as will those who register in the future. You will find the certificates in the LMS Achievements section. They will contain a unique number which belongs to you. If you have any problems viewing or downloading certificates, please contact us via membershiplmsqueries@britishlegion.org.uk

CTO Local Booking App

This April marks the one-year anniversary of the launch of our County Training Officer (CTO) Local Booking App. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to making it a success. When it comes to course management and booking, we've simplified and streamlined the process. We would like to remind CTOs to use the App to organise, plan and publicise all of their courses, whether in person or online.

The App can be accessed through the MAP Homepage or by clicking on the link:

[Local Training Booking App - Power Apps](#)

CTO guidance on how to use the App can be found here: [Membership Local Training \(sharepoint.com\)](#)

Membership Town Hall

Join us on Thursday, 28th April at 18:00 to hear the latest Legion updates. The event will be held online via MS Teams, but you don't need to have MS Teams installed on your device. Please register your attendance using [here](#) and on Friday 22nd April we will email you with a link to join the event on the day.

We will cover the following topics:

- **One Legion Strategy update**

Charles Byrne, RBL Chief Executive, with a focus on how the Strategy is already helping to deliver £10m of grants to specialist support agencies, including support for Afghan support service personnel – made possible after Trustees agreed a change to who is eligible for help from the RBL.

- **Introducing new Trustee, Patsy Wilkinson**

Patsy will talk about the role and responsibilities of our trustees, and how they are shaping the future of the RBL.

- **Diversity and Inclusion in action**

Jason Coward interviews Jenni Dyer, Head of Diversity and Inclusion, to explore how our new strategy will make a difference for members, followed by a live Q&A session with Jenni.

- **What is the purpose of RBL membership?**

Highlights of the first stage of a review that Janet Talman, Director of Membership, is leading that will ensure membership is relevant and attractive for generations to come.

Festival of Remembrance 2022

In 2022, we will approach the Festival of Remembrance through the core values of “service” which make our Armed Forces such an inspiration to all.



Through words, song, and storytelling, the Festival will reveal the qualities behind service which make it an essential part of life in the Armed Forces – and civil society:

- Placing others before oneself;
- Being utterly reliable and trustworthy;
- Dedication to a higher purpose and commitment to seeing things through;
- and so forth.

The nation hopefully is emerging from a long period of great difficulty when these qualities – or their absence – were viewed in high relief. The 2022 Festival will reinforce our admiration of the unfailing sense of service displayed by the Armed Forces and commemorate those who gave their service even at the cost of their lives.

We intend for there to be four key elements and one optional element drawing upon this theme:

1. Dedication to service has nowhere been shown more faithfully than in the lifetime of **Her Majesty the Queen**.
2. We will pay tribute to the unshakable service of all elements of HM Armed Forces during the 1982 **Falklands War**.
3. We will recognise and pay tribute to the service of **LGBT** personnel and veterans.
4. We will mark important anniversaries of three proud units, the **Royal Marine Commando**, the **RAF Regiment**, and the **Brigade of Gurkhas**.
5. We also have the option of marking the anniversaries of the only George Cross medals awarded collectively, to the people and island of **Malta**, the **Royal Ulster Constabulary**, and the **NHS**.

This year also marks the 80th anniversary of significant events of 1942 in World War Two; such as the disaster of Dieppe, victory at El Alamein, and the fall of Singapore.

However, the RBL has decided that its Remembrance position will not include Second World War elements on their individual anniversaries but instead will come back to the war's commemoration every five years. The next such anniversary will be WWII 80 in 2025.

This approach prevents the Festival, and Remembrance generally, from repeating the same five-year cycle of anniversaries for the next 25 years. Instead, it will allow us time to evolve the Second World War's commemoration in ways which honour its remaining veterans while keeping its storytelling alive and resonant with fresh generations.

Falklands 40

On the 2 April 1982, Argentine forces invaded the British overseas territory of the Falkland Islands, sparking one of the largest major conflicts since WW2.

Lasting 74 days, the conflict was the first military action since the Second World War that utilised all elements of the Armed Forces.

Watch the Falklands 40th Anniversary video [here](#) and find out more information about the commemorative event at the National Memorial Arboretum [here](#).

Branch / County websites

Our web hosting agency has planned to carry out necessary maintenance work on the server on Tuesday, 19th April. If you use the Royal British Legion platform and template for your branch / county website, please note that we will need to take all sites down for 2-3 hours from 7pm on this date, and there will be a content freeze from 6pm until the sites go live again.