



## Central News – Feb 2022

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### Important dates

25 March 2022	Membership Council elections: deadline for returning ballot papers in South East Midlands
31 March 2022	Board of Trustees elections: deadline for returning ballot papers
1 April 2022 (5pm)	Annual Conference: deadline for registering delegates
10 April 2022	National Youth Standard Bearers competition

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](mailto:kbrzeska@britishlegion.org.uk) with details of any links you cannot access.

## Fundraising

### RBL face-to-face fundraising campaign from private sites (UK only)

Please check the latest lists containing information on where the next confirmed campaigns will take place, and what sites have been booked, but aren't confirmed yet, on the [Membership Administration Portal](#) or through your Membership Support Officer. Feedback or concerns about the booked sites should be reported to your Membership Support Officer. Thank you for your continued support with these important fundraising campaigns.

## Falklands 40



The Royal British Legion has announced commemorative plans for the 40th anniversary of the Falklands Conflict at the National Memorial Arboretum on 14th June 2022. Registration for veterans of the conflict will open soon, with accreditation being led by the respective military and civilian associations. More information is available [here](#).

Our branches and members have an extraordinary opportunity to reflect on the contribution of our communities in this modern conflict that many younger generations will remember or have been directly involved in. We are in the process of producing a resource pack and would love to hear what local community events and commemorations you are involved in and what resources would help you. So please take a few minutes to complete this short survey [Falklands 40 Survey](#) to let us know your thoughts and ideas.

The RBL's Marketing Team is looking for any members who served in the Falklands conflict or been involved as civilians who would be willing to share their stories and experiences ahead of this year's 40th Anniversary Commemorations. These could be used in the media as well as on the RBL's digital channels such as our website and social media accounts.

If you served in the Falklands conflict or know of others who would be willing to share their stories within your networks, please email the Royal British Legion's Press Office via [PRAdmin@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:PRAdmin@britishlegion.org.uk) outlining details of your service during the Falklands and any notable memories you are particularly keen to share (a sentence or two will suffice). We would be grateful to receive all information as soon as possible as the earlier we receive stories the more likely they are to feature.

Once we have received the information those concerned may be contacted by a member of the Legion's PR or wider marketing team.

Please don't be humble, we know many of our members will have poignant and extraordinary stories in which there could be wide public interest, and we are keen to share as many of these as possible.

## Board of Trustees Elections

Elections for National Officers and Trustees are due to take place shortly. By the end of February all eligible voting Branches should receive through the post an Election Pack and Ballot Papers from our election scrutineers, Civica. Voting Branches are to hold a Branch Meeting (not a Branch Committee Meeting) to consider the candidates and record their decisions on the ballot papers. The completed ballot papers are to be returned to Civica, using the envelope provided, to arrive not later than **5pm on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022**.

If you believe you should have received a pack, but have not received it **by Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2022**, please contact Steve Barnett, Head of Corporate Governance, on our dedicated elections email address: [trusteeelections@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:trusteeelections@britishlegion.org.uk)

## Membership Council Elections

Out of the seven regions eligible for elections, six had only one candidate nominated, therefore the elections will take place in the South East Midlands region only. Ballot papers for electing the Membership Council South East Midlands representative have been recently sent out to the relevant branches. Branches have **until 25<sup>th</sup> March** to return their completed ballot papers electronically or by post. If you believe you should have received a pack, but have not, by the end of the first week of March, please contact Desigan Munsamy, Membership Governance Coordinator at this email address: [dmunsamy@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:dmunsamy@britishlegion.org.uk)

The winning candidates for the other six regions, who will take up their posts at the Annual Conference in May, are listed below:

1. Albert Bell (Ireland)
2. Dilys Hooper (Merseyside/West Lancashire)
3. Michael Challinor (West Midlands)
4. Kenneth Terry (Wales)
5. Gordon Barker (Yorkshire)
6. Emma Cox (Women's Section)

## 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Pennant

If your branch was formed in 1921 or at the beginning of 1922 and you haven't yet applied for the Centenary Pennant, you can do so by contacting Membership Governance Coordinator, Desigan Munsamy at [dmunsamy@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:dmunsamy@britishlegion.org.uk). Once Desigan sends you the authorisation letter, you can contact one of the three approved providers listed in the Ceremonial Handbook (AA Flags, Newton Newton and Flagmakers) to purchase the pennant. Choosing one of these three approved suppliers will ensure that you buy a high-quality pennant that adheres to our standards and policy.



## Postal Communication

Branches and counties are requested not to send letters/documents intended for their Membership Support Officer (MSO) or County Committee members by post to Head Office (Haig House) in London. Please use the same address that you have always used unless your Membership Support Officer advises you of any changes— although some Area Offices are closed, there is mail redirect in place to ensure that post gets to the right person. If you are unsure of the address, you should be using, please contact your MSO.

## Lifting of Covid-19 restrictions

With restrictions gradually loosening across the four nations, we feel that it is now appropriate for all activities, including all elements of Branch Community Support, to resume. Please remember to follow the policy, guidelines and advice issued by your government and/or local authority in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic. If you feel unwell and/or have a positive lateral flow/PCR test result, you must follow the government advice about self-isolation that applies where you live.

When planning a face-to-face meeting/activity/event please remember to:

- check the local government guidelines to find out if there is anything precluding such gatherings, and whether everyone in the group feels comfortable doing so;
- show consideration towards those members and volunteers who may not feel comfortable yet about face-to-face interactions;
- consider wearing a face mask in crowded and indoor spaces where you may come into contact with people you do not normally meet;
- remember that ventilation and hygiene can help reduce the risk of spreading/catching the virus;
- when conducting face to face meetings with the people you support (under the Branch Community Support scheme) – be guided by their feelings and approach to their safety and adjust your plans and actions accordingly, e.g., wear a face mask if they ask you to do so.

Let's enjoy getting back together in a careful and safe manner, look after each other and stay on top of any changes to the current guidelines.

## Ways to support the RBL

Did you know that you can support the RBL while shopping at no extra cost to you?

When buying products through [Amazon Smile](#), 0.5% of the net purchase price of eligible goods will be donated to the RBL. Amazon Smile has the same low prices and vast selection of products as Amazon and will also give you the opportunity to select the RBL as the charity you'd like to support.

If you have a [Sparks Card](#) you can nominate the RBL as your chosen charity and M&S will donate 1p to the RBL every time you use your card. Since this partnership started, M&S has donated over £612,000 to the RBL.

## Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Some of you have started planning the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations and we are receiving questions around funding, insurance and general guidance on such events. We are currently gathering all queries, and by the end of February we will issue a FAQ document that will provide you with information and advice on arranging these celebrations.

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