



Central News – September 2022

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Important dates	
30 September 2022	Branch Accounts submission deadline
11 November 2022	Remembrance Day
12 November 2022	Festival of Remembrance
13 November 2022	Remembrance Sunday

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 dnikolakopoulou@britishlegion.org.uk with details of any links you cannot access.

Membership engagement survey results

A few months ago, members were asked to take part in a membership survey and share their feedback with us. Below you'll see a summary of the results.

To find out more, you can view/download the full presentation on [MAP](#).



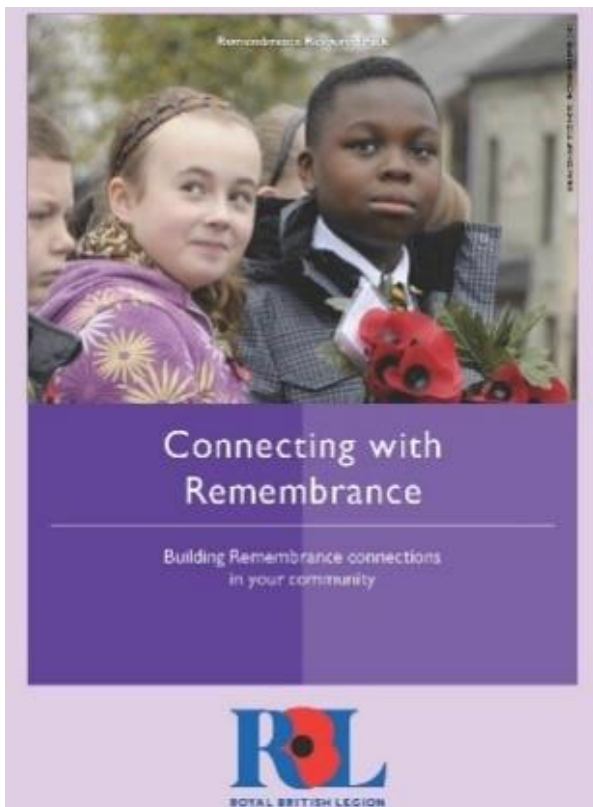
Future thinking of Membership

At May's Annual Conference, Director of Membership Janet Talman gave an update on RBL's work on defining the Purpose of Membership, and what it means for the Membership offer.

In this short [online seminar](#), Janet talks us through the reasons why RBL has undertaken this work; who we've worked with and listened to; "friendship" as a driving force behind the purpose of membership, and the roles individual members can perform in maximising the Legion's effectiveness.

This [presentation](#) provides a clear and accessible walk through of how RBL has approached the task and set down a direction of travel we can all get behind as One Legion.

Spreading the message of Remembrance



Remembrance is an opportunity to pause and reflect on giving thanks and honouring the memory of those who gave their lives to defend our democratic freedoms.

When we take a moment to commemorate lives lost and celebrate the lives of those who have and do serve, we unite people across faiths, cultures, and backgrounds.

As a Member, you are a messenger of Remembrance within your community, with your branch acting as a focal point for local activities. Without you, our national Remembrance messaging wouldn't reach as far and as wide as it does today.

However, we want to do more. We need your help to ensure that Remembrance is understood by all, is available to all, and is passed on to future generations.

To help more people understand Remembrance, we've created a new guide to use to help you spread the message of Remembrance to people across your community. To find out more, visit the new [Resources for Members webpage](#).

Teaching Remembrance

We've launched new learning resources for children aged 4-18 to help them discover what Remembrance means in our lives today.

Created in partnership with the National Literacy Trust, Scholastic and others, our resources focus on 'service' by highlighting the vital work that the Armed Forces, Emergency Services and Civilian Services across the UK and Commonwealth do to defend our freedoms and ways of life. Using film, photography, case studies and original illustrations, children can explore who serves, how they serve, and why it is so important to remember them. Suitable to use in school or at home, they reflect key National Curriculum requirements and skills.

There are also new resources for Guides and Scouts which explore the theme of service, and we've also created materials for the Cadets. For the first time these extend across all the Cadet sections - RAF, Navy, Army, Volunteer Police, Fire and St John's Ambulance.

Resources are free to download from the [Teaching Remembrance hub](#). Please share this with local schools and cadets/scouts/guides.



Remembrance Live Assembly

We invite children aged 7-11 (Key Stage 2) across the UK to join us in an interactive Remembrance Live Assembly at 10.30 am on 11th November. Children will explore the meaning of Remembrance through poetry and music, coming together for the Two Minute Silence to remember the service and sacrifice of those who keep us safe. Schools and teachers can register by emailing Remembrance@britishlegion.org.uk

The future of Remembrance lies in the hands of the next generation, and we hope that by providing resources that are designed to meet the needs of teachers and engage children, we can pass on the torch of Remembrance to the next generation.

Help us to reach children and young people across the UK by sharing the availability of these resources with schools and communities in your area who would benefit in using them.

Tree of Cherished Memories



In June, the Tree of Cherished Memories was unveiled at the Arboretum. Nestled amongst a wooded glade, adjacent to the Royal British Legion Poppy Field this magnificent 4-metre bronze sculpture creates a brand new space of Remembrance for all. Beautiful leaf and figurative elements of the sculpture can be individually commissioned, for a period of 5, 10 or 25 years, as a dedication to a loved one, or to mark a special occasion for celebration and Remembrance. For more information visit the [NMA's website](#).

Festival of Remembrance – Saturday 12 November

This year, we will approach the Festival 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 reliable and trustworthy. Dedication to a higher purpose and commitment to seeing things through. The 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.

You can tune in to the live BBC broadcast at 9.00pm. For more information visit our [website](#). If you have questions, please contact Festival@britishlegion.org.uk

Remembrance Sunday at the Arboretum – Sunday 13 November

Tickets to visit the Arboretum on Remembrance Sunday are now available to book. A service of Remembrance will take place at the base of the Armed Forces Memorial which everyone is welcome to attend, advance booking is recommended to guarantee entry. For more information visit the [NMA's website](#).

Remembrance Sunday at the Cenotaph – Sunday 13 November

The Cenotaph veteran march past will take place after the National Service of Remembrance on Sunday 13th November. Those wanting to watch the march past can do so from Whitehall or from St James' Park (Horse Guards Parade side). Please note spaces are limited. For more information visit our [website](#). If you have questions, please contact Cenotaph@britishlegion.org.uk

Seasonal Celebratory Lunches – 10, 13 & 15 December

Bookings are open for the Arboretum's Christmas Lunches with a Swing. Suitable for groups of ten or more, gather your family, friends, or branch to enjoy an afternoon of festive entertainment and a delicious Christmas Lunch. Tickets cost £31.50 per person and include a welcome drink, three course Christmas Lunch, entertainment provided by the Antonio Socci Jive & Swing Band, tea and coffee and mince pies. For more information please visit the [NMA's website](#).

Annual Conference 2023

The 2023 Annual Conference will take place in Torquay between 19-21st May. Hosted at the Riviera International Centre, the conference will follow the hybrid format introduced this year, allowing delegates and visitors to attend in person or virtually and be able to debate and vote on motions, ask questions and watch all the presentations and updates from the National Chair, Director General and other senior RBL staff. Stay tuned for more information about the Conference shared in the e-newsletter and Central News Bulletin.



Branch Accounts

Don't forget that branch returns for the year ended 30 June 2022 are due to be submitted to MSOs by 30 September. Contact your MSO in the first instance with all queries or you can contact branchaccounts@britishlegion.org.uk if you are unable to reach your MSO or they are unable to help you.

Desert Rats Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum

The Desert Rats Association has raised funds for a lasting memorial to past, present and future Desert Rats at the National Memorial Arboretum. The memorial consists of a large steel jerboa on a carved stone plinth facing El-Alamein and the 7th Armoured Division signpost originally erected outside Berlin at the end of the war.

The Association would like to invite Second World War veterans from the 7th Armoured Division or 7th Armoured Brigade to the event that will take place on Sunday 23 October 2022. The date is the 80th Anniversary of the second battle of El Alamein and the service will start at 1130hrs with attendees arriving from 1000hrs. The service will be followed by a reception. Attendance is by invitation only.

Recognising veterans' advanced years, a second invitation will be issued for a carer/relative to accompany them. A serving Desert Rat will act as an escort for each veteran at the event. The association would like to use this opportunity to put together a nominal roll of WW2 Desert Rat veterans and is keen to gather details of any remaining who served wearing a jerboa but are unable to attend the dedication.

This is likely to be the last large gathering of WW2 Desert Rats and the memorial will be a lasting testament to those who have worn a jerboa. Veterans can find out more about the association by visiting their [website](#).

Please share this with any Desert Rats veterans in your community. If you have any questions please contact Maj David Howe - David.howe576@mod.gov.uk

