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Merry Christmas

Thank you for supporting
our vital work in 2024



Happy Christmas from RBL's National Chair and Director General

2024 has been another busy year, with the announcement of our Royal Patron, many significant remembrance events including several to commemorate D-Day 80, and extraordinary efforts nationally and locally to support our beneficiaries.

We've also begun the important work to develop our new long-term strategy that will set us up to make sure we can support the changing needs of the Armed Forces community, both now and in the future.

There are so many wonderful moments from the year, and we're sure you'll have your own – here's our [2024 highlights video](#).

Thank you for your efforts and continued commitment for this fantastic charity.

With our thanks and best wishes

Jason and Mark



Our top moments of 2024



Highlights from 2024

Thanks to your support we have achieved a lot in 2024. We've commemorated D-Day 80 with events across the UK and beyond, delivered a spectacular Festival of Remembrance, raised vital funds through a mountain trek, Pedal to Paris cycle and Poppy Walks. We also announced the personnel for team UK for the next Invictus Games. Take a look at our highlights video.

[Watch the video](#)



Fundraising events 2024: thank you

We would like to thank everyone who has walked, cycled, run and participated in our survival challenges this year. Over 2,000 people came together to support us. The monies raised will go a long way to help support members of our Armed Forces community in times of need. If you want to get involved next year please check out our 2025 fundraising events.

[Fundraising events in 2025](#)



Meet up at the National Memorial Arboretum

The National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) is a beautiful and inspiring place to visit with over 150 acres of woodland landscape to explore. If you're looking for a special place to meet up with friends and family, want to break up a journey, or simply need a peaceful place where you can reflect and remember, you'll receive a warm welcome at the NMA. The



Recognising brilliant work

Do you know a county, branch or club that's doing great work for members and the Armed Forces community? The Membership Awards are a special part of the membership experience, and the winners are invited to accept their award at Annual Conference. Nominations are made through branches and counties. Contact your branch or county officers for more details. The deadline for nominations is 14th February 2025. You can

Arboretum is free to enter and is closed only on Christmas Day.

[Plan your visit](#)



Annual Conference 2025 registration

Registration to attend Annual Conference 2025 in Harrogate, North Yorkshire as a delegate or visitor is open on **14th January**. Members can attend in person or online and delegates can even cast their branch's votes online. Debating and voting on motions is a cornerstone of our Conference agenda and is crucial in influencing RBL's activities.

[Register](#)



Community project creates over 2,700 handmade poppies

see the list of previous winners on the Annual Conference webpage.

[Find out more](#)



Special offers for those heading to Annual Conference 2025

We've worked with Harrogate Convention Centre to secure exclusive offers around the spa town for those attending Annual Conference in person. If you'll be travelling by train, discounted LNER tickets are available via a booking portal using the discount code HCC25. You'll find information on all the discounts and how to use them on the Centre's webpage.

[Visitor discounts](#)



Help stop military compensation being counted as income

Poppy Appeal fundraisers worked with local schools and the wider community to create a poppy gallery and window installation at their local John Lewis store in Leicester. Customers, staff and the local community knitted poppies to create a Poppy dress, while children from local schools and charities contributed Poppy inspired artworks. 2,705 handmade poppies were created and they raised £3440.73 for the Poppy Appeal.

Veterans are having their military compensation counted as income when assessed for means-tested benefits which undermines the [Armed Forces Covenant](#). Under this system, veterans and their families who are struggling, who've received compensation for injury, illness, or losing a loved one, are pushed beyond the threshold for Pension Credit. This means they miss out on thousands of pounds in support. Our Credit Their Service campaign aims to end this injustice. Please write to your MP and urge them to support our campaign. If you've had similar experiences, [use this form](#) to contact us, or email campaigns@britishlegion.org.uk.

Contact us



Forces in Mind Trust research

We are working with Forces in Mind Trust to understand veterans' experiences with treatment and support. They are interested in UK Armed Forces veterans who have previously had or are currently receiving treatment for problems with alcohol and mental health (e.g. depression, anxiety, PTSD). Take part in their research study and you'll get a £20 gift voucher for a confidential one-hour online interview. For more information, please email Shumona Salam: s.salam@lancaster.ac.uk

Contact us



Justice for LGBT veterans

The Parliamentary debate on [Lord Etherton's review](#) into the treatment of LGBT veterans marked a historic moment for those affected by the pre-2000 'gay ban'. The Government announced a [£75 million LGBT Financial Recognition Scheme](#), offering up to £70,000 for veterans harmed by the ban. RBL, a long-time advocate, welcomes this progress and will provide specialist support to veterans applying for the scheme. For support, [contact RBL today](#). Together, we honour the resilience of our LGBT veterans and continue to advocate for their rights and recognition.

Contact us



A day at the races

The Grand Military Gold Cup Day at Sandown Park in Esher, near London, is a wonderful day of racing that's been staged since 1841. RBL standard bearers from Surrey will be showing their support for the military amateur jockeys who will be taking part on Friday 24th January 2025. Members, serving personnel (past and present) and their families and friends can get £5 tickets by using RBBL25 at checkout.

Buy tickets

Cadent

Your Gas Network

Keeping the Armed Forces community safe and warm

We are pleased to have [a new partnership with Cadent Gas](#). This partnership allows RBL to help support the Armed Forces community by keeping them safe and warm. Cadent Gas operates in the North West, West Midlands, East Midlands, East of England, and North London. During the partnership we'll raise awareness on carbon monoxide safety, tackle fuel poverty, and provide tailored support to vulnerable members of the Armed Forces community. If you or someone you know needs support and guidance or is struggling with their utility bill, call our advice and support line: 0808 802 8080.

Find out more

Going back in time



From the Royal British Legion Journal December 1962

The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh visited the British Legion poppy Factory to meet the workers - many of whom suffered war disabilities.

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 your membership or you want to update your contact details, email our Membership Services team MembershipServices@britishlegion.org.uk

Quick links

[Membership](#)

[Get support](#)

[Poppy Shop](#)

Contact

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Haig House
199 Borough High Street
London SE1 1AA

MembershipServices@britishlegion.org.uk



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The Royal British Legion is the UK's leading Service charity. We provide practical care, advice and support to serving members of the Armed Forces, veterans of all ages and their families.

We value your feedback, [please tell us how we did](#).

If you do not wish to receive any further information by e-mail of selected products and services from the Royal British Legion you can [unsubscribe here](#).