



**ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION INDUSTRIES**



Introduction

Royal British Legion Industries (RBLI) was formed in 1919 when 55,000 soldiers returned from the First World War with tuberculosis. We helped as many soldiers as we could to recover and rehabilitate by offering accommodation and work in our factory after they were released from our hospital in Preston Hall.

Today RBLI is a national charity headquartered in a multigenerational village in Aylesford, supporting the Armed Forces, people with disabilities and people who are unemployed. We improve lives every day by inspiring those we help and supporting them to find work and lead independent lives.

RBLI is a separate charity, both in governance and finance, from The Royal British Legion, we do not make money from the sale of remembrance poppies. Thanks to the support of individuals, trusts and corporates we can support over 13,000 veterans, disabled people and people who are out of work each year.

Our History

1919

Aylesford's Preston Hall is set up by a committee which later becomes Industrial Settlements, to provide support to troops returning from the First World War with tuberculosis.



1926

HRH Edward Prince of Wales visited our village in Aylesford, he took great interest and later became a patron.



1944

During the Second World War the number of patients and settlers at Preston Hall increased to 1,641.



1971

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II bestowed the Royal prefix on the charity. A few years later Her Majesty visits Aylesford to see our work.



1985

RBLI greatly expands the woodwork and signs departments following periods of exponential growth in sales.

1917

Landscape architect Thomas Mawson writes "An Imperial Obligation." Inspired by the death of his son in WW1, the book outlines the demand for a village for war veterans.

1921

It becomes clear that soldiers who recovered at Preston Hall had life changing symptoms that required more support. Industrial Settlement's first village bungalows are built for veterans with large balconies to help aid recovery from tuberculosis.

1937

George Orwell stays at Preston Hall after returning from the Spanish Civil War and falling ill with tuberculosis.

1964

British Legion Industries (formally known as Industrial Settlements) launches a social enterprise signs department employing 136 disabled veterans.

1975

In December Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II toured BBMC's goods department and the signs departments.

1993

RBLI's high dependency nursing home Gavin Astor House opens.

2005

Queen Elizabeth Court, RBLI's assisted living accommodation for veterans and their dependants opens its doors.



2016

The RBLI factory is rebranded and launched as Britain's Bravest Manufacturing Company at the House of Commons.



2018

RBLI's LifeWorks programme reaches over 1000 Armed Forces Veterans nationwide.



2020

RBLI's Tommy Club is launched. The club was formed by our esteemed President General The Lord Dannatt creating a powerful new community that will ensure veterans will get the support they need.



2002

RBLI purchases a Leatherhead social enterprise run by the Queen Elizabeth Foundation, expanding operations into Surrey in hope of helping more people to find a safe and inclusive place to work.

2011

RBLI's transformative employment support programme for veterans, LifeWorks, is launched.

2017

RBLI builds the first phase of the 'Centenary Village' by completing 24 specially adapted homes for disabled veterans.

2019

Royal British Legion Industries enters its centenary year and launches Scotland's Bravest Manufacturing Company in Renfrewshire. Appleton Lodge officially opened by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and a time capsule is buried at the Centenary Village development.



Where next? Centenary Village

RBLI's Centenary Village is a major expansion of 100 homes for our nation's most disadvantaged veterans. It includes disability-adapted apartments, family homes, and assisted living homes, as well as a new Community Centre with vocational training suites and accessible gym. We have already opened new purpose-built older care facilities on the Village. It means that veterans with any disability, mental health issue, or care needs from anywhere in the UK can be supported on RBLI's unique care pathway. At this time we must raise £1.9m by 2023 to keep the build on schedule.

Our Services

Centenary Village

Officially launched by Her Majesty The Queen in 2019, RBLI's Centenary Village is a £22m development creating more urgently needed accessible homes for veterans. Supported by a Kent Campaign Board, chaired by Lord Colgrain DL, as of March 2022 we need to raise £1.9m to complete the build. This vital expansion will also see the introduction of a new community hub to tackle social isolation, an IT learning suite to support skills development and access to training and employment, and an accessible fitness centre to support with rehabilitation.

RBLI Village

RBLI's Village is home to more than 300 residents living in a mix of family homes, accessible independent apartments, supported living and care homes which specialise in Dementia Care. We also have repatriation apartments and emergency accommodation for veterans who are at risk of homelessness. This mix of facilities means that we are unique in providing the full care pathway on one site. Following over 100 years of experience in supporting veterans and people with disabilities, we used that knowledge to develop our own welfare programme, STEP IN. Working with our onsite welfare team, STEP IN develops tailored plans for every resident, setting independence goals and agreeing the steps needed to achieve them.

LifeWorks

Accredited by the MOD, our national LifeWorks Programme operates from RBLI's Capel Morris Centre. The LifeWorks team delivers in-person courses throughout the country and remotely via video link to military bases including Germany,



Cyprus and Brunei. The course sees veterans and military spouses increase their confidence, practise interview skills with companies who volunteer their time, and develop CV's to reflect their experience and transferable skills. Lifework's Reach Back team continue to support delegates post programme to help maximise their chances of finding suitable employment.

Social Enterprises

Across RBLI's social enterprises over 78% of employees are veterans or have a disability. In Britain's Bravest Manufacturing Co. (BBMC) based in Aylesford, our veterans deliver on national contracts for companies including Network Rail, Barratt Developments and Highways England. BBMC's Print and Mail site is located in Leatherhead, Surrey and is staffed by veterans and people with disabilities. Due to the success of BBMC and the opportunity it gives to our veterans, in 2019 Scotland's Bravest Manufacturing Co. (SBMC) was opened by The First Minister. Based in Renfrewshire near Glasgow, SBMC ensures we can offer the same employment opportunities to even more veterans than ever before.

Employment and Welfare Support

Operating across the South of England as a provider for the Department for Work and Pensions, RBLI's Work Programme supports people with disabilities in the workplace and, supports their employers to ensure that they are providing accessible working opportunities to their staff.



Our Impact

Steves' Story

Steve joined the 1st battalion of the Welsh Guards in 1977 and served in both Northern Ireland and the Falklands. In 1982, while serving in the Falkland's War, Steve boarded the Sir Galahad. On 8th June that year, RFA **Sir Galahad was struck. Steve was aboard** and sustained life-changing injuries. 56 others lost their lives.

Aged 40 in 1989, Steve was medically discharged from the Armed Forces.

With only a suitcase and his family, Steve returned to his hometown of Shropshire but found it hard to find work. Having spent 12 years in military service, he faced returning to civilian life with injuries that gave him a bleak chance of securing employment.

Steve received more devastating news when he was told he was unable to have the operation needed on his leg, which he desperately needed to get back to work, until he was 55 years old. A long 15-year wait.

Facing the prospect of enduring well over a decade out of work, whilst also having a family to support, it was clear that Steve was in urgent need of help.



It was then that Steve found what he calls a life-line in Royal British Legion Industries (RBLI). Immediately after making contact, he was invited for an assessment at the RBLI Village in Aylesford.

RBLI was able to offer him and his family a house, and organised for his operation to take place within 6 weeks. They also offered him a job in Britain's Bravest Manufacturing Company (BBMC) which would be waiting for him once he had fully recovered from his operation. **Within 12 months he was back in work.**

Today, Steve is an integral part of BBMC – he has developed his skills, helped to introduce new products and skills to the veteran workforce and supervises a team who create trackside signage for Network Rail and thousands of signs for UK roads each year.

RBLI is honoured to have helped a Falkland's veteran like Steve, and to be able to continue supporting him today.

Ways to get involved

Right now, for every person we can help, there's one we can't. That's why we need people like you; with more funding, we can grow our village, support more people who need us and help them to find their purpose again.

Our upcoming events

Visit rbli.co.uk/fundraising-upcoming-events to find out more about our upcoming event and register to take part.

The Falklands Forty Challenge

Event date: 1st–31st May 2022

Location: Virtual

Open to individuals or groups – your challenge is to cover 40 miles anyway you like during May, helping to raise vital funds for our veterans and mark 40 years since the end of the Falklands War.

rbli.co.uk/rbli-events/falklands-forty-challenge



The Jurassic Coast Challenge

Event date: 14th–15th May 2022

Location: Dorset

Walk, Jog or Run the spectacular Jurassic Coast—a World Heritage Site. Starting from Corfe Castle.

rbli.co.uk/rbli-events/jurassic-coast-challenge



Tommy's Jubilee Tea

Event date: July 2022

Location: Virtual

Celebrate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in style and help support our veterans. Sign up for your Tommy's Jubilee Tea pack and fundraise while you celebrate.

Email fundraising@rbli.co.uk to register your interest



Tommy's Jubilee Beacon Lighting

Event date: 2nd July 2022

Location: RBLI Village, Aylesford

The special evening event will be held on the RBLI Village in Aylesford and feature live music performances, a chance to sample the special Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacon Tart and will finish with the lighting of our beacon at 9.45pm.

Email fundraising@rbli.co.uk to register your interest



Ways to get involved

Nightrider London 2022

Event date: 11th–12th June 2022

Location: London

Nightrider gives you the rare chance to explore the capital in the dark on two wheels! You have the choice of a 50km or 100km route which will take you past the best sights in London.

rbli.co.uk/rbli-events/nightrider



Cotswolds Way Challenger

Event date: 25th–26th June 2022

Location: Cotswolds

Walk, jog or run 100 km looped route through the heart of the Cotswolds

rbli.co.uk/rbli-events/cotswold-way-challenge



Ride with a Veteran

Event date: 15th–17th July 2022

Location: Aylesford to Belgium

Ride alongside our veterans to the Menin Gate for RBLI in 2022! We'll be starting at Aylesford in Kent to do 2 days of riding, finishing at the Menin Gate Memorial in Ypres.

Email fundraising@rbli.co.uk to register your interest



The Changeling Theatre Shakespeare Performance

Event date: 21st July 2022

Location: Linton Park, Kent

Hosted by Camellia PLC at Linton Park, this special Shakespearean performance will raise money to support the work of RBLI. There is limited availability and tickets are on sale for £25 here:

www.medwayticketslive.co.uk/event/changeling-theatre-presents-othello-at-linton-park Please note that proceeds from the Linton Park performance will go to RBLI, others venues are not included.



Ways to get involved

The Tommy Club

The Tommy Club is a new and exciting way for you to support our Armed Forces Veterans. There has never been a more important time for us to commit our support to the veterans of today and make certain that we can be here for them for decades to come. For just £15 a year, you can join the Tommy Club and become a Tommy Club Champion. Anyone is welcome to join and become part of our incredible community. You will be helping to change the lives of vulnerable veterans in return, you will receive exclusive Tommy Club benefits. Visit: tommyclub.co.uk

Corporate Partnerships

RBLI works in partnership with some of the UK's leading companies including Barratt Developments, Morrisons, Network Rail and Bunzl Greenham. There are so many ways companies can support our work, from social value buying from RBLI's social enterprises, to charitable giving and volunteering. To read more about the ways your business could make a difference visit: rbli.co.uk/get-involved-corporate-partnerships or email fundraising@rbli.co.uk to explore the opportunities.

Donate

To become a regular giver, and help support RBLI's work throughout the year please visit rbli.co.uk/make-a-donation

Leave a Gift In your Will

By leaving a gift in your will you ensure that practical support is there for our veterans, for years to come rbli.co.uk/legacies

Donate to Centenary village

To join our prestigious supporters in creating The Centenary Village please contact fundraising@rbli.co.uk so we can discuss the sponsorship opportunities. From disability adaptations to equipment, from community spaces to apartments, there are sponsorship levels to suit all ranges. Every donation helps us make the Centenary Village a reality and provide homes for more veterans for the next 100 years.

Plant a Tree for The Queen's Green Canopy

RBLI is delighted to supply plaques on behalf of The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) – a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022.

Launched by The Lord Lieutenant of Kent, Lady Colgrain, our high quality Corten Steel plaques are made and fulfilled by our veterans. Available at rbli.shop



Ways to get involved

Shop: The Home of the Tommy

RBLI's online shop is known as 'The Home of the Tommy' – our unique range of items feature our trademarked Tommy, a reflection of our pride in the sacrifice made by all service personnel.

Veterans in RBLI's social enterprise make and fulfil a range of products which are available for purchase here: <https://rbli.shop/>. All sales help to keep veterans in stable employment where they can develop their skills and have access to RBLI's welfare support to ensure they live positive lives after service.



Buy Social with RBLI's Social Enterprises:

When you buy from RBLI's social enterprises you are providing work for veterans. We can make bespoke items so please contact david.church@rbli.co.uk to discuss your needs.

What can we make for you?

- **Wooden products** including Pallets, Tommy garden furniture and plant pots, and recycled wooden products
- **Signage:** We use screen printing and digital print to create road and rail signs, temporary signage, Health and Safety signage, bespoke signs. Substrates include ACM, Foamex and more!
- **Bespoke designs:** Our water Jet cutter enables us to cut unique shapes into a range of substrates for all your bespoke needs
- **Hoardings:** We can print, design, and install hoardings
- **Print:** Including leaflets, booklets, corporate documents, letters, posters, business cards and stationery
- **Mail:** We can print and directly mail your items
- **Fulfilment:** Our team fulfils almost anything! Past products include K'NEX, small items such as products for hardware stores and large items
- **Number plates**
- **Clothing and Fabric printing**
- **Roller Banners and Pull up banners**





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[@RBLICharity](https://www.instagram.com/RBLICharity)

Royal British Legion Industries (RBLI) Charity No. 210063. RBLI, Hall Road, Aylesford, ME20 7NL, Kent

RBLI is completely separate to The Royal British Legion and receives no financial support from the annual poppy appeal. The charity must raise its own funds to deliver care and employability support, and build more homes