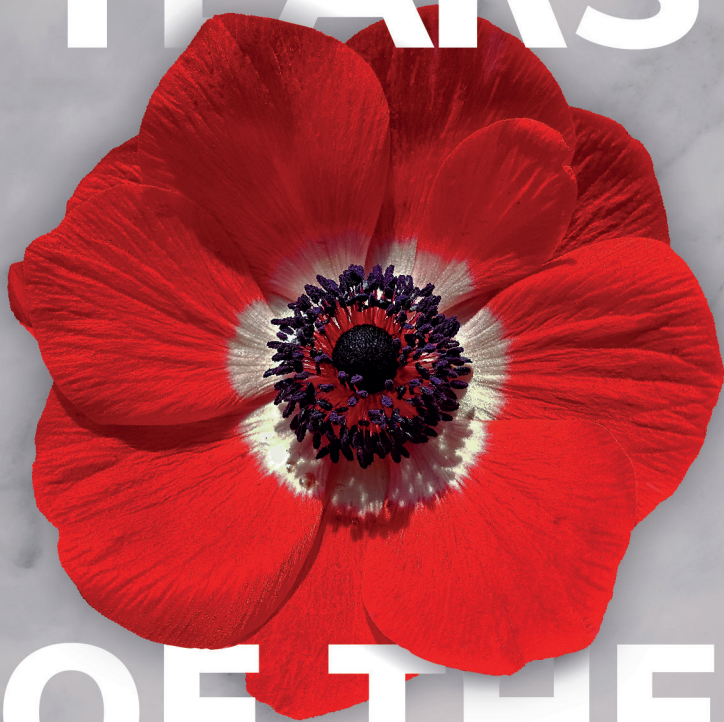


**100
YEARS**



**OF THE
POPPY**

THE POPPY BALL | 19TH NOVEMBER, 2021 | RAFFLES HOTEL



**PACK UP
YOUR TROUBLES**

Pack up your troubles
in your old kit-bag
And smile, smile, smile
While you've a lucifer to light your fag
Smile, boys, that's the style!
What's the use of worrying?
It never was worthwhile
So pack up your troubles
in your old kit-bag
And smile, smile, smile.

**IT'S A LONG WAY
TO TIPPERARY**

It's a long way to Tipperary
It's a long way to go.
It's a long way to Tipperary
To the sweetest girl I know!
Goodbye Piccadilly
Farewell Leicester Square
It's a long long way to Tipperary
But my heart's right there.





THIS EVENING'S PROGRAMME

The evening is a wonderful opportunity for us to say "Thank You" to all who have served.

19:00

Sparkling Reception

19:35

Ceremony & Act of Remembrance

Dinner & Drinks

Prize Draws

DJ Tim Elliot

02:00

Carriages

WELCOME

FROM THE CO-CHAIRS OF THE POPPY BALL COMMITTEE -
ANILA 'Nils' MARTIN & CHRIS 'Ginge' RATCLIFFE

After its hiatus in 2020, we warmly welcome you to the 2021 Poppy Ball!

This past year has had its challenges for many, and we are grateful for family and friends we hold dear.

We are also fortunate to live in the UAE as it celebrates the 50th Anniversary since the Union of the seven Emirates in 1971 and would like to take this opportunity to contemplate the values and achievements which honour the Founding Fathers.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Her Majesty's Consul General Simon Penney and his wife Claire. We hope you have a lovely evening.

As always, we would like to thank our distinguished violinist Tracey Keeley, the Dubai Singers, DJ Tim Elliot, Matt Hebditch our fantastic 'in-house' designer, Raffles hotel for their continued support and by extension, thank our sponsors and supporters.

It has been a tough couple of years, so we truly appreciate your support. Thank you all!



Thanks to Chris for continuing to organise the monthly 'Pop Down the Legion' (PDTL) gatherings and organising the annual Army v Navy rugby match, which we very much look forward to in 2022, and to McGettigan's for hosting these events.

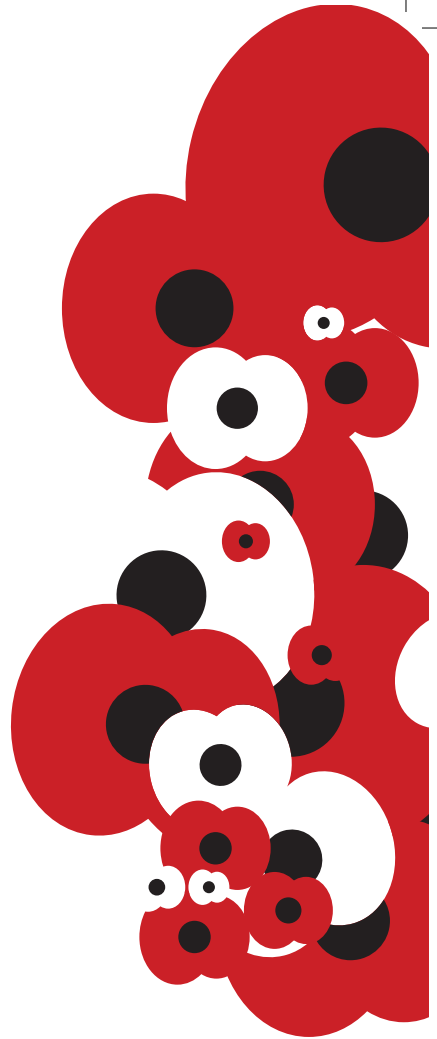
A special mention goes to Nils, who as we all know, is the backbone of the Poppy Ball, without whom it wouldn't happen.

It would be remiss of us if we did not also thank the unwavering support and patience of our spouses.

But really, the greatest Thank You is to you – our guests!

Thank you for your continued support and love of the Poppy Ball, without you, this evening would not happen.

We wish you all an excellent evening of commemoration, comradeship, and celebration as we pay tribute to Prince Philip, remember the first Gulf War, and celebrate 100 years of the Poppy.



Thank
you 

POP DOWN THE LEGION

THE FIRST TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH

McGETTIGAN'S
JLT - DUBAI

Look out for a venue change in the New Year.

For more information:

Facebook: British Military Veterans Dubai & Northern Emirates

Linked In: PDTL Dubai



**SCAN CODE TO VISIT PHOTO
GALLERY OF THE CURRENT EVENT**

The link will be removed on 1st January, 2022



HMCG SIMON PENNEY

Her Majesty's Trade Commissioner
for the Middle East and Her Majesty's
Consul General to Dubai.

Simon Penney was appointed as Her Majesty's Trade Commissioner (HTMC) for the Middle East in May 2018. In January 2021 he was also appointed as Her Majesty's Consul General (HMCG) to Dubai.

Simon has spent many years in the banking sector with extensive experience leading corporate and financial institution groups and teams across Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and Asia.

Simon's previous roles in the Middle East include Head of Corporate and Investment Banking at First Gulf Bank and Chief Executive Officer, Middle East, and Africa with the Royal Bank of Scotland.

Simon has also worked for ABN AMRO Bank in South Africa and the UK, in consulting at PwC and in project finance within the construction industry. Simon holds an MBA from Nottingham University and a construction management degree from Reading University.

DUBAI SINGERS

We are very pleased to have with us this year the Dubai Singers Community Choir. The Dubai Singers have been entertaining audiences in Dubai for 50 years. Men and women of different nationalities and ages are represented in the group that specialise in Western choral music.



The origins of the Dubai Singers are lost in the mists of time, but the embryonic group which was to become the Dubai Singers initially formed in someone's living room round the piano. The Singers evolved into the Dubai and Sharjah Singers (with occasional orchestra) who, along with Dubai Drama Group, formed the basis of the Dubai expat community culture!

The Dubai Singers have put on many wonderful performances including Handel's Messiah, Requiems by many composers, a whole raft of operettas and musicals, joint shows with the Dubai Drama Group, support group for visiting opera professionals, Christmas concerts and much more.

If you would like more information, please email: dubaisingers@gmail.com.



TRACEY KEELEY



Studied from the age of 14 with world famous Italian born soloist Alfredo Campoli, and later at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama with Detlef Hahn. She has had a varied freelance playing career, from working in London's West End, The Norwegian National Opera and as a soloist recording, performing recitals and concertos.

Tracey was a member of Her Majesty's Band of The Scots Guards and later The Honourable Artillery Company where she appeared for both as their soloist in many concerts Internationally.

Tracey worked as Court musician to Queen Elizabeth II, where she led the orchestra, regularly performing for members of the Royal Family, The Prime Minister and many visiting Heads of State including Presidents Bush and Putin.

Since moving to Dubai, Tracey has enjoyed many exciting opportunities such as working with the Sydney Opera House U.A.E. Tour, performing with The National Symphony Orchestra (NSO) alongside Andrea Bocelli in Saudi Arabia, and leading orchestras for other visiting artists including The Jacksons and West End's production of We Will Rock You.

She has a keen interest in contemporary genres, especially rock. During the pandemic lock-down she transcribed fully for electric violin many classic guitar solos, including works by Hendrix and Metallica. Tracey is delighted to have been appointed Head of Strings for Whole School at Jess and has many exciting ideas to hopefully inspire her students.



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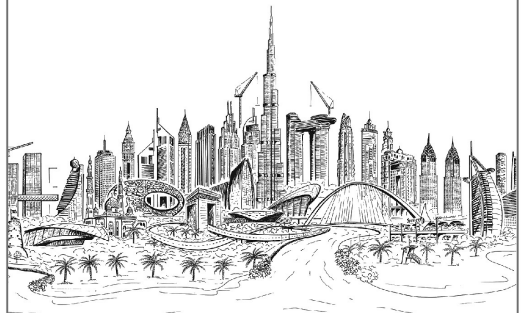
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HRH PRINCE PHILIP DUKE OF EDINBURGH

On the 9th April 2021, the world was united in mourning following the death of His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

The Duke of Edinburgh ended his active naval career nearly 70 years ago, but always kept a strong relationship with the military, so it is no surprise that perhaps one of the communities most saddened by his death is the Armed Forces.

His relationship to those who serve, or have served, was not solely because he held several military titles but also because he was himself a decorated Second World War veteran.

The Duke of Edinburgh joined the Royal Navy in 1939 at the age of 18. In 1941, Prince Philip was transferred to HMS Valiant, a battleship equipped with radar and anti-aircraft guns. On this ship, he saw action during the Battle of Crete and was mentioned in dispatches for his involvement in the Battle of Cape Matapan.



As well as holding Royal Navy titles including the rank Admiral of the Fleet, The Duke of Edinburgh was a Field Marshal of the British Army, Colonel of the Grenadier Guards, and Colonel-in-Chief of the Army Cadet Force. In the Royal Air Force, the Prince held appointments including Marshal of the Royal Air Force, Air Commodore-in-Chief of the Air Training Corps and Honorary Air Commodore of RAF Kinloss. He additionally held the title of Captain-General of the Royal Marines.

The Armed Forces community is highly proud of HRH Prince Philip's associations with so many different parts of Britain's military. And we will never forget him and his service to Queen and Country.

Rest in peace, Sir.



REMEMBERING HRH PRINCE PHILIP DUKE OF EDINBURGH

By WO1 (CASM) Dan McNeill

It is a privilege to have had His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh as the Colonel-in-Chief of our great Corps for all of my 20 years of service and I am sure that every single one of our REME soldiers who have served before me since 1969 feel exactly the same way.

Having spoken to a number of troops recently who had the honour of meeting HRH, it is clear that our Colonel in Chief was always quick witted, extremely personable and intent on taking the time to engage with our Craftsmen and Junior NCOs just as much as with our Commanding Officers and Generals.

A particular tale from one of our Company Sergeant Majors demonstrates this aptly. When HRH visited 3 Close Support Battalion REME in Germany, his itinerary was packed as you would expect but the Prince chose to spend a great deal longer on the 5 Armoured Company tank park talking to our soldiers and their families than he apparently should have – and much to the frustration of the aides tasked with keeping him in good time for the next serial. Those that met him on that day still speak fondly about this and appreciated it.

The REME instructors that spoke to him during his visit to open our training establishment in Lyneham in 2016 remember a Colonel-in-Chief that took a genuine interest in the equipment and training that they demonstrated.

His enjoyment and fascination for all things military engineering clearly shone through and were no doubt borne from the shared lived experience he had with us as a fellow Serviceman – albeit in our sister service of the Royal Navy.

He was also the Senior Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering so I'm sure our motto of 'Arte et Marte', or by skill and by fighting, meant as much to him as it does now to all of the soldiers that wear our cap-badge. Prince Phillip as our Colonel-in-Chief has left a lasting legacy and every one of our soldiers will continue to be trained at The Prince Philip Barracks in Lyneham.

He will be forever remembered fondly by our Craftsmen, Junior and Senior NCOs.

Rest in peace, Sir.





THE ARMED FORCES AND THE ROYAL FAMILY:



Britain's Royal Family and its Armed Forces have an intimate association that goes back centuries.

Whilst members of the Army and Airforce are required to pledge an oath of allegiance to the monarch, the Royal Navy is exempt from this, having been formed by the monarchy itself rather than parliament, meaning that the oath is implicit.

The Queen began her relationship with the British military when, in 1945, as a young

princess, she joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service - making her the first female member of the Royal Family to join the Armed Forces as an active member.

Famously, the Duke of Edinburgh served in the Royal Navy, between 1939 and 1952, during which he was mentioned in dispatches for actions during World War Two. He rose to the rank of Commander.

Prince Charles also served in the Royal Navy, as well as training with the Royal Air Force.

WHY THEY ARE SO CLOSE



He was awarded his RAF wings at Cranwell on 20th August 1971.

Prince William served as a Regimental Officer in the British Army before undertaking attachments to the Royal Air Force and Royal Navy, until September 2008 when he would train to become a full-time pilot with Search and Rescue.

Prince Harry has had a distinguished military career. He served in the British Army for 10 years, during which time he rose to the rank of Captain and saw active service in

Afghanistan on two separate tours.

Whilst the role of the Monarchy has changed from ancient times when armies were actively led by the sovereign (King Harold was killed by an arrow to the eye in 1066), the Royal Family remains actively involved in all branches of the military.

A Royal face will frequently be seen visiting the troops, thanking them for their service, and reminding them of the British values which define our military so much.



THE STORY OF

Anna Guérin was born in France in 1878, in 1911 she came to Britain with her two daughters when WW1 broke out, she then moved to the US where she raised funds for those made destitute by war and promoted the poppy as a symbol of Remembrance.

Moina Michael, inspired by John McCrae's poem 'In Flanders Fields', is often cited as the originator of the poppy as a symbol of Remembrance having convinced the American Legion Auxiliary to adopt it as their symbol in 1921. But it was Anna Guérin who promoted the idea of the poppy as the symbol of Remembrance and by the end of 1920 she had been responsible for Poppy Days in several US states and was turning her attention further afield.

In September 1921 Anna went to London to persuade the fledgling British Legion to accept her idea of adopting the poppy as a symbol for the British Legion in the UK and offered to fund the manufacture of a million poppies in France.

A month later Earl Haig called for 11th November to be known as Remembrance Day and that it would be a 'Poppy Day'. The poppy was a





THE POPPY

huge success and to this day remains a symbol of Remembrance and hope for a peaceful future.

Initially the poppies, made in France, were simple, bright-red pieces of fabric with a green stalk and a little banner that read on one side 'British Legion Remembrance Day' and on the other 'Made by the Women and Children. The devastated areas of France.'

Meanwhile Earl Haig's poppy, made in Britain, had five petals, black stitching in the middle with little beads and a leaf.

Each year around 40 million poppies are distributed by RBL volunteers, helping to raise vital funds to help support serving and ex-serving members of the Armed Forces community and their families.

In 2020 the evolution of the poppy continued with the launch of the first downloadable poppy in response to Covid-19 restrictions.

Although the design of the poppy has changed over the years, it remains a symbol of both Remembrance and hope for a peaceful future to this day.



GULF WAR: 30 YEARS ON

The British operation name given was 'Operation GRANBY' – which took its name from John Manners, Marquess of Granby, a famous British Army officer and popular commander in the Seven Years' War.

The First Gulf War was fought from 1990 to 1991 and saw the largest ever deployment of the British Armed Forces since the Second World War.

Saddam Hussein caused international outrage when he invaded the tiny oil-rich Gulf state of Kuwait on 2 August 1990. It was feared that if Saudi Arabia was next, the Iraqi dictator would control more than half the world's oil.

The response was rapid and a colossal American-led alliance deployed to the region, thirty-nine nations formed the coalition, supplying 670,000 troops, although it was the US and Britain who contributed the most regarding resources, including 470,000 US military personnel and more than 53,000 from the UK.

The first Royal Air Force aircraft arrived in Saudi Arabia on 10 August to begin Operation GRANBY.

The United States, who also sent aircraft to the region, code named their deployment 'Operation Desert Storm'.

By October 1990, 7th Armoured Brigade, also known as the "Desert Rats", had left Germany for Saudi Arabia to establish their presence in the region.

A second British Army of the Rhine brigade joined them with Challenger tanks specially adapted for the desert dust, and extensive training was carried out.

The United Nations had ruled that if Iraq failed to withdraw from Kuwait by 15 January 1991, necessary means could be carried to secure its liberation.

After a six-week air campaign destroying strategic targets, it was on Sunday 24 February 1991 that coalition ground forces were given the green light to advance.

The fighting was over in less than 100 hours.



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NOT ALL WOUNDS ARE VISIBLE

Peace of mind encourages positive mental health

This past year has been tough on all of us with the concerns over Covid, job uncertainty, being unable to visit loved ones or lonely while stuck in lockdown. Some of us have felt anxious, depressed, irritable, or frustrated at the situation.

This can also be evident when people leave the Armed Forces and need to adjust to a new way of life, job, a new country, or a new family situation.

You may experience sleepless nights, nightmares, lack of self-confidence, low levels of self-belief and worthlessness, difficulty coping with past experiences, feelings of isolation, alcohol overuse, anxiety, and depression, or generally feeling lost with little sense of purpose.

We may feel unsure where to turn for help, assistance, guidance or even just who to talk to, and there is no shame in asking for help.



FOR SUPPORT, CONTACT:

The Royal British Legion

www.britishlegion.org.uk
OverseasOps@britishlegion.org.uk
+44 20 3376 8080.
Lines open 0800 – 2100,

Seven days a week (UK time).
Monitored by the Welfare Team.

London Veterans Mental Health Services

www.veteransservice.nhs.uk
cim-tr.veteranstilservice-LSE@nhs.net

Their resource page lists many veteran
specific organisations.

Combat Stress

www.combatstress.org.uk
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Sapper Support

www.sappersupport.com
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In the decades since formation, the company has become a group of partner companies, united by a dedication to service, quality, and integrity under the current leadership of Mark Kendall.

**REMEMBERING THE PAST - WORKING IN THE PRESENT
- LOOKING TO THE FUTURE**



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BRITISH VETERANS WHO FOUGHT IN THE GULF WAR

How they are remembered

In 2016 a Gulf War memorial was unveiled at the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas, Staffordshire, 25 years after the conflict ended, honouring those who died in the war.

The memorial cost £70,000 and £35,000 was paid for by the Kuwaiti government.

The inscription engraved onto the memorial reads:

"In memory of the 47 fallen comrades, and to all those who fought in Operation Granby (1990-91) The Liberation of Kuwait, those who have subsequently passed away and also those that continued to fight their own battles, long after the guns fell silent. Lest we Forget."

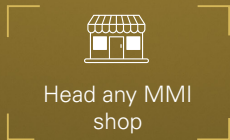




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MEDALS ISSUED IN THE GULF WAR

British Armed Forces members who took part in Operation GRANBY received a campaign medal if they met the qualifying criteria.

There are also medals with two types of clasp ('2 Aug 1990' clasp and '16 Jan to 28 Feb 1991' clasp) available for personnel who meet the respective criteria.

The colours of the medal ribbon represent the desert landscape found in the Gulf and the colours of the three British armed services.

British troops were also presented with a Kuwaiti Liberation Medal and the Saudi Liberation of Kuwait Medal. However, they were prevented from wearing these for political and policy reasons.

Most veterans who have now left the Armed Forces wear these alongside the medals they were issued by the UK Government.

THE PATRIARCHS

An Elegy, by Britain's Poet Laureate Simon Armitage.

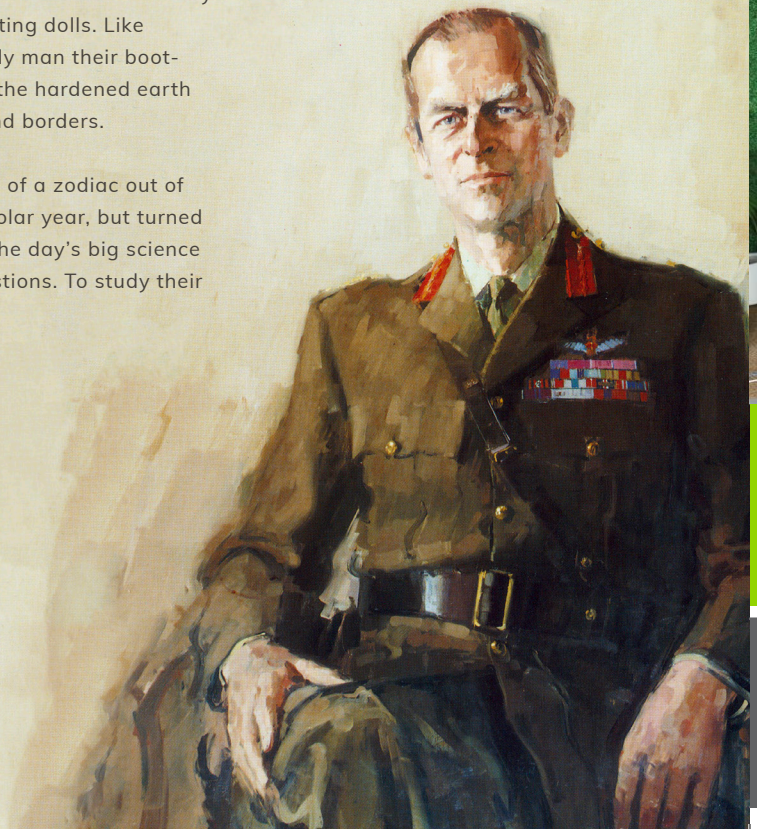
"The weather in the window this morning is snow, unseasonal singular flakes, a slow winter's final shiver. On such an occasion to presume to eulogise one man is to pipe up for a whole generation – that crew whose survival was always the stuff of minor miracle, who came ashore in orange-crate coracles, fought ingenious wars, finagled triumphs at sea with flaming decoy boats, and side-stepped torpedoes.

Husbands to duty, they unrolled their plans across billiard tables and vehicle bonnets, regrouped at breakfast. What their secrets were was everyone's guess and nobody's business. Great-grandfathers from birth, in time they became both inner core and outer case in a family heirloom of nesting dolls. Like evidence of early man their boot-prints stand in the hardened earth of rose-beds and borders.

They were sons of a zodiac out of sync with the solar year, but turned their minds to the day's big science and heavy questions. To study their

hands at rest was to picture maps showing hachured valleys and indigo streams, schemes of old campaigns and reconnaissance missions. Last of the great avuncular magicians they kept their best tricks for the grand finale: Disproving Immortality and Disappearing Entirely.

The major oaks in the wood start tuning up and skies to come will deliver their tributes. But for now, a cold April's closing moment parachute slowly home, so by mid-afternoon snow is recast as seed heads and thistledown."





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100 YEARS OF THE POPPY



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