



Paris Branch

Newsletter

N° 42 – December 2025



CONTENTS

Page

- 2 Introduction**
- 3 December Quiz**
- 4 Membership News**
- 5 Events**
- 6 2026 Ceremonies and Events**
- 7 Programme Poppy 2026**
- 8 A Word in Your Ear...**
- 8 The Last Laugh**
- 9 Quiz answers**

December 2025 RBL Paris Branch Newsletter.
Chairman's introduction.

As mentioned in my previous Newsletter it has been a very busy year for the branch. On the 16th of November I along with Robin our other standard bearer and a few of our members attended the Order of Liberation ceremony at the Arc de Triomphe which I have to say was the largest gathering of standards and people I had ever seen at the Arc. (See photos attached).

Our AGM was held on the 24th November. Only a few members attended, which was to say the least disappointing. I stressed at the meeting that we need more of our members to take a more active part in our events and ceremonies. In 2026 we shall be making every effort to achieve this.

On the 26th November some of us attended the Le Souvenir Français ceremony at the Arc de Triumph. (See photos below).

Towards the end of November and beginning of December Janet and I were busy getting in all the Poppy Appeal money. We will let you know the total amount raised in the January Newsletter.

On the 9th December I and some of us attended the Christmas party of Libre Resistance SOE 'F' Section, and French Special Forces, which was very good as per usual. (See photos below).

Our branch Christmas Cocktail was held on the 11th and was very well attended by members and their guests. All who attended said that they had enjoyed the evening very much. Special thanks are due to Janet and Helen for providing the refreshments. Thanks as well to Tim and Robin for their assistance during the evening. (See photos below)

Our next proposed lunch will be in February 2026.
That wraps it up for this year. It just remains to say:

A very merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.

Richard

DECEMBER QUIZ
CHRISTMAS BUMPER QUIZ
2025



1. What was the movie title of Tim Burton's ghoulish 1993 Christmas tale?
2. 'Do the fairies keep him sober for a day' is a cheeky reference about Santa in the first verse of which popular Christmas song?
3. In which language does 'Kala Christouyenna' mean Merry Christmas?
4. In which European capital city is eel a traditional meal on Christmas Eve?
5. Which film takes place in the Nakatomi Plaza on Christmas Eve?
6. Which famous English writer once said 'I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year'?
7. What kind of animal distributes Christmas presents in Syria?
8. What do Dutch Children use instead of a Christmas stocking?
9. In which fictional land was it always winter but never Christmas?
10. Which Christmas accessory did the London confectioner Tom Smith invent in 1846?
11. What ornaments do elves traditionally have on their shoes?
12. In which modern-day country was St. Nicholas born in?
13. What is the colour of mistletoe berries?
14. How many points does a snowflake traditionally have?
15. What are the names of Santa's reindeer?
16. In what country did the putting up a Christmas tree tradition originate?
17. What star sign would you be if you were born on Christmas Day?
18. Which country is the largest exporter of Christmas trees?
19. On what day of the week does Advent commence?
20. Which country supplies the Christmas tree for Trafalgar Square in London?
21. How many ghosts appear in A Christmas Carol?

22. In which country is KFC commonly consumed for Christmas dinner?
23. What type of tree is most commonly used for Christmas?
24. What country started the tradition of gifting chocolate coins?
25. Which UK monarch delivered the first Christmas Broadcast to the BBC in 1932?

Wishing you all a Very Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year

Janet Warby

Membership News

Deaths

We learn of the death of Elizabeth Glen on Wednesday 3rd December. Elizabeth was the wife of Ron Glen. Both were long time members of the Paris Branch and Elizabeth continued to attend RBL lunches before relocating near to La Rochelle. Ron served on the Committee Member for many years. A member of the Snooker Section when we had our Headquarters in Rue Boudreau, he was also a very good Golfer and helped organise Golf Tournaments for the Branch. Ron died some years ago. May Elizabeth rest in peace. We send our condolences to Ron and Elizabeth's three sons and their families.

Recently Sick

We have been informed that Elaine Taylor has been ill and was hospitalized for a short time. Elaine is back home now and we wish her a speedy recovery and hope to see her when she is feeling up to coming out.

We are not always notified of members dying or being in bad health. We should be grateful if you would let us know if any such information comes to your attention

EVENTS

24th November Annual General Meeting:

Topics discussed centred around means of increasing our membership and how to ensure that we retain interest in our activities.

The current committee members were confirmed in their positions.



16 November: We attended, with our standard bearer and some other members, the Order of Liberation ceremony at the Arc de Triomphe. The crowd was huge.

9th December: I and some of us attended the Christmas party of Libre Resistance SOE 'F' Section, and French Special Forces



11th December: Christmas Cocktail. This, our main event of the month was most successful. It was very well attended and seems to have been much appreciated.

Our thanks are due to the organisers, especially Helen and Janet whose culinary

skills were happily applied to variants of the sausage roll theme much to the pleasure of addicts like myself.

Thank you also to all those who donated prizes for the raffle – which raised a nice profit for the Poppy Appeal.

Not only was Janet in her Christmas hat but Helen and Irene were also appropriately attired in impressive Christmas spirit as you can see.



At this year's end it is appropriate to glance at the Paris Branch programme of ceremonies and events for the year ahead.

The following are those we know of at the time of writing. Others, of course, we learn about only as they are arranged. We will be sure to let you all know of them in good time.

CEREMONIES AND EVENTS DURING THE YEAR AHEAD 2026

<u>Ceremonies</u>			
Date	Month	Venue	Time
26 th	April	Maisons Laffitte Park RAF Memorial	10h30 for 11h00
8 th	May	Various ceremonies	10h30 for 11h00
4 th	August	Arc de Triomphe RBL ceremony	17h45 for 18h30
6 th	September	Pedal to Paris Arc de Triomphe	15h30 for 16h00
15 th	September	RAF Ceremony Battle of Britain Arc de Triomphe	17h45 for 18h30
11 th	November	RBL Service of Remembrance Cathedral St. Louis des Invalides	14h00 for 15h00
<u>Events</u>			
26 th	March	Thank You Cocktail - RBL	18h30 - 21h30
4 th	August	Cocktail Party after Ceremony at Arc de Triomphe	19h30 - 21h30
22 nd	October	Poppy Appeal Launch Coffee Morning at Ambassador's Residence TBC	10h30 – 12 noon
30 th	November	Paris Branch AGM TBC	18h30
10 th	December	Christmas Cocktail RBL Paris Branch TBC	18h30

PROJECT POPPY 2026

Dear Members,

During the Poppy Season I, and surely many of you, saw many pictures of streams of knitted poppies cascading from numerous Church towers and even the Tower of London.



It occurred to me that an impressive project would be for RBL and BCWA Ladies to knit poppies large and small. These would be anchored onto a netting which could hang in the Legion HQ and with permission from HM Ambassador, the Ambassador's Residence during the Annual Coffee Morning. It might well find a place on 11 November at the Cathedral St. Louis.

Together with Karen Martinovitch, who is the BCWA Vice President and Liaison Officer, we have come up with knitting patterns which we can let you have.

Thus, ladies (and gentlemen too), we propose that all those who can afford a little time devote some of it to the knitting of poppies during the coming year.

If you, your spouses and friends, can take part in this endeavour we would be most grateful.

Finished poppies can be left at the Legion in either my name or that of Karen Martinovitch who is also a member of the Legion, or they can be sent to me at the Legion

I attach a photo of a cascade of poppies from a church tower in England in November. Ours may not be quite as impressive, but we would like to see if we can make a suitable effort for Remembrance 2026. If you cannot find red wool let me know and between us, Karen and I will see that you are provided with a ball or two as well as the pattern.

Many thanks for your support.

Janet Warby, Hon. Secretary RBL Paris
Karen Martinovitch, BCWA Vice-President

A Word in your Ear: WORT

This month we are looking at the meaning of only half a word.

“Wort” is found at the end of many plant names telling us that the plant in question has been – and sometimes is – used for medical purposes.



Here are a few of the more obvious examples:

- **Lungwort** - believed to help lungs. Spotted leaves like infected lungs. (see photo)
- **Liverwort** - believed to help the liver. Some of the numerous species have a liverlike form
- **St John's wort** - Picked around 24 June – St John's feast day – and dried for healing use through the year.
- **Nipplewort** - Not only a treatment for cracked nipples but has milky latex.
- **Mugwort** - or “midge-wort” (against insects)
-
- **Spleenwort** - spleen
- **Woundwort** - wounds
- **Toothwort** - toothache
- **Fleawort** – (obvious)

There are in fact many more should you care to search for them.

M.Y.

The Last Laugh



64 - A Flat Tyre

Lilly: Why are you slowing down?

Rose: Can't you hear that clunking sound.

Lilly: Oh. I thought it was the rap music on the radio.

Rose: No. I can still hear it with the radio off.

Lilly: Yes. I see what you mean.

Rose: And the steering's gone a bit funny.

Lilly: Do you think there's something wrong with the steering wheel?

Rose: No. I think it might be one of the other wheels. The ones outside.

Lilly: We'd better stop and have a look then. Look. There's a lay-by.

Rose: OK. So, let's get out and have a look at the wheels... My side's all right.

Lilly: But look at this side. That one looks a bit funny.
Rose: Let me see. Oh dear! I think we've got a flat tyre.
Lilly: Still, maybe we could drive slowly. It's not completely flat, is it.
Rose: What do you mean, "it's not completely flat"?
Lilly: Well, it's only flat at the bottom.

M. Y. (64)



December bumper quiz: Answers:

1.	15. Blitzen, Comet, Cupid, Dasher, Prancer, Vixen, Dancer and Donner
2. The Nightmare Before Christmas	16. Germany
3. Merry Xmas Everybody (Slade)	17. Capricorn
4. Greek	18. Canada
5. Rome	19. Sunday
6. Die Hard (1)	20. Norway
7. Charles Dickens	21. 4 Jacob Marley, and the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future
8. Camel	22. Japan
9. Shoes	23. Nordmann Fir
10. Narnia	24. America
11. Christmas crackers	25. King George V
12. Bells	
13. Turkey	
14. White	

*Comments & contributions to mfyates@gmail.com
 Back numbers: rblfrance.org/ then "Paris Branch Newsletters"*

