Tony Thinking Aloud lvii

On May 15th 1921 King George V laid a wreath at the Cenotaph in Whitehall. He was accompanied by representatives of all sections of the armed forces, this was the establishment of the British Legion. On the golden anniversary in 1971 the Queen gave them the title 'Royal British Legion'.

Since the end of World War One, and indeed throughout time, there was need to support those who had been injured in conflict, and those who had been bereaved. This was done mainly in an informal way, both locally and in the different branches of the armed forces. Although this support did not end, it was brought together nationally with the formation of the British Legion.

Now support is given by the Royal British Legion to those serving in the forces, veterans, and their families. Remembrance Sunday being the focus of the work of the Legion and the Poppy Appeal. With the National Memorial Arboretum close by we are very conscious of this work, it is a national focus for care and remembrance for all.

A wreath will be laid at the Cenotaph this Saturday at 9a.m., the Centenary Day, and there will be a fly past in remembrance by the Battle of Britain flight.

The Arboretum with its trees is a focus for remembrance and peace. We enjoy peace because of those who died in conflict at time of war. We have the responsibility in using this peace which was 'bought' for us through sacrifice. Just as the trees are a living memorial, we are a living memorial – with responsibilities – too.

The Centenary this Saturday is a time to remember the work of the Royal British Legion today and the support many ex service personnel need, young and old.

In the Pandemic we have thought of the support we can give to others, this should be in our minds on the Royal British Legion's anniversary, we are living in the peace bought for us through conflict.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.