



Y Services (Garats Hay) Branch Newsletter No:1/January 2017
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Linda McDermott (Branch Delegate at the 2017 National Branches District Annual Conference) presents a cheque for £8,459.94 towards the Poppy Appeal to RBL National Chairman (and Y Services branch member) Terry Whittles.

Dear << Test First Name >>

Well, it seems like only a couple of days ago that I was last writing to you and yet, Christmas has come and gone, 2016 has turned into 2017 and already the end of January is rapidly approaching! Anyhow, I'm sure you don't need me whinging any longer, so (in no particular order) to business.

Webmaster

Sarah Drummond - our resident web-page ninja - has informed me that she wishes to relinquish the role of looking after the Y Services webpage (<http://www.garatshay.org.uk/index.html>). Firstly, I'd like to take the opportunity to publically express my thanks to her for the many years of dedicated (and often unrewarded) service she has given to the Branch by keeping our website up-to-date. As much as I'd like to be able to say 'No' and keep her as part of the Branch's 'Management Support', I clearly can't nor would I. Instead, I will simply wish her all the very best for the future and once again thank her. Sarah, your efforts are very much appreciated and you definitely leave Y Services better off. Which brings me to the next 'issue'; namely, I'm now looking for a volunteer to look after and manage the Branch's website. Having discussed the need with Sarah, she has indicated that she was spending about an hour a week uploading updates and although she admitted to "...a basic knowledge of using htm" she indicated that tools such as Expression Web would allow a true novice to edit pages like you would a normal MS Word document. I am in the process of 'pushing my luck' and approaching Digby to see if there is any appetite for supporting the Branch from there. However, in the spirit of looking to our own, if one of you out there is willing to give a small amount of time helping to keep the Branch's online presence current, please get in touch via the link below.

Membership

List

In this Newsletter, Eric Sambell (our Branch President) explains the newly created Branch Contact List. Now, I won't steal too many of his chips, but the List has been a few months in the making and Eric has spent quite some considerable time making sure it is useful, usable and (most importantly) doesn't infringe any data protection rules and regulations. Suffice to say, I and the rest of the Committee are fully supportive of his initiative and commend it to you all. This leads me nicely onto...

Old

Comrades

One of the things that hadn't occurred to me when I took on the role of Chairman were enquiries from people seeking either information on old comrades or family members who had served with the Y Services. Now, a couple of these have been relatively straightforward to assist with, as the Legion Magazine is (I feel) an excellent 'first port of call' for most of the more 'recent' enquiries I've received. However, one in particular has had me scratching my head and wondering "how do I help?" After a quick email conversation with Dennis (thanks Dennis, knew it was good idea keeping you around) I thought I'd turn to that wonderful search engine that is the Y Services. So, what can you help me with I hear you ask? Easy really, does anyone know of, or has served with a Mrs/Miss Violet Ravenscroft? A close family member is researching their family and looking into Violet's service at Chicksands and Beaumanor when she was in the WRAF during the 1940s. I've had a couple of email conversations with the family member and am satisfied that they have good reason to be seeking the information they are, so, if you can help out, please let me know and I'll pass it on. Moreover, if you're happy to deal direct, please also let me know and I'll make the necessary introductions.

National

Branches

District

Annual

Conference

By the time this Newsletter 'hits the streets', our delegates to the National Branches District (NBD) Annual Conference will have been to Haig House and presented our Branch's report on last year's

activities. Linda McDermott, along with Dave Lawrence (one of our 2 Standard Bearers) graciously gave up one of their Saturdays to attend and as well as representing us as a branch delegate Dave paraded our Standard while Linda presented a £8,459.94 cheque for the Poppy Appeal to RBL National Chairman, Terry Whittles. Jim McDermott, our branch representative on the NBD committee also attended as an observer So, Jim, Linda and Dave, thank you for representing the Branch and keeping our profile nice and high 'at Head Office' which leads me nicely to...



SHOW YOU REMEMBER
ON THE 11th OF NOVEMBER

The Poppy Appeal

I'm sure you will all agree, over £8000 from a Branch of 'just' 440 or so is a pretty good achievement; it's also an achievement that each and every one of you can rightly feel proud of as we each, in our own small way (by dint of our subscriptions) have contributed to that fantastic total. However, there are many who have contributed more and I'd like to take the opportunity to thank them - now that the money raised has 'found its way home'. Firstly, there are a good number of anonymous donors, either because the individual has asked for anonymity or it was a general collection (such as at St Mary's); this has raised £500 in the past year or so. You each know who you are and whilst I respect your desire for privacy, you have my gratitude for your generosity. More publically though, Pete Derrick, raised nearly £120 at his BBQ following our Summer Gathering at Duxford; Mike Billett made a donation (£250) in-lieu of using easyfundraising and Jan Claughton (very generously) asked guests at her wedding to make donations to the Poppy Appeal, which raised £200. JSSU(V) continue to give us their support with WO1 Gill Bennett raising £50 from running the Lincoln 10K and the proceeds of the Unit's Christmas Raffle (£450) were once again donated to the Poppy Appeal. But, last and by no means least, Dave Whimpenney, by cycling from London to Paris achieved the fantastic amount of over £1700. Now, some may question his sanity for such a feat (in much the same way that Jez Bailey was asked "Why?") but, the amount raised speaks for itself. David, thank you, and I hope you weren't too sore at the end.
...Which leads me nicely to...

Easyfundraising 

I'm sure many of you will be familiar with the website: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/> It's a quick and easy way of generating funds and whilst we only get informed of how much has been raised on a quarterly basis, I encourage all of you to go and have a look, sign-up if you are willing and remember to go via the <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/> page next time you find yourself shopping online. Also in this issue a text of a message sent to all members from the Legion's Director General and a reminder about our branch 'Summer Gathering' in Scarborough.
...and finally...

I think I've gone on long enough now, so I'll sign-off and leave you with a (definitely) belated Happy New Year. Until the next time << Test First Name >>
Warmest regards
Nick

The next item introduces for the first time our Branch Voluntary Contact List. This is NOT a branch membership list but rather a listing of those members in the branch who are happy to have their basic details made known for the purposes explained here by our Branch President Eric Sambell.

Branch Voluntary Contact List January 2017

Access to this list is conditional on the information it contains only being used solely for the purposes of furthering the aims of the Royal British Legion by supporting membership growth and encouraging fellowship between members of the Branch. The information is not to be passed on to anyone who is not a member of Y Services (Garats Hay) Branch of the Royal British Legion or used for any other purpose.

To obtain further information such as an email address of a member whose details are contained in the list, please contact the custodian of the list, our Membership Secretary, Pete Derrick on email: y-servicesrbl@btinternet.com who will then seek permission to pass on the details and when received, send them to the enquirer. If there are any errors or if you wish to add or amend your details, please send an email to: member.book@btinternet.com giving your membership number, first name, surname, town and county of your address.

Eric Sambell, President



'Fellowship' (pic stolen from Spec Ops FB page)

Branch Voluntary Contact List January 2017

First name	Surname	Town	County	Country
Carol	Armstrong	Cambridge	Cambs	
Euan Dhugal	Baker	Boston	Lincs	
Paul	Ball	Borehamwood	Herts	
Edward	Bellerby	Southampton	Hants	
Peter	Benstead	Carshalton	Surrey	
Nick	Berry	Welton	Lincs	
Chris	Boyd	Lot et Garonne		France
Robin	Bradshaw	Northampton	Notts	
Keith	Breen	Loughborough	Leics	
Bob	Brown	Cheltenham	Glos	
Denis	Byrne	Newton Aycliffe	Co Durham	
David	Carter	Bletchley	Bucks	
Tim	Chapman	Warrington	Cheshire	
Judith	Charlesworth	Horrogate	Yorks	
Jan (Duffy)	Claughton	Gillingham	Dorset	
Ian	Coghlan	Lydney	Glos	
Gerard	Cowin	Wimblington	Cambs	
Pete	Derrick	Houghton Conquest	Beds	
Ian	Ellinor	Scarborough	Yorks	
John	Evans	Newton-Le- Willows	Merseyside	
Graham	Fairclough	Oxford/ Swindon	??	
David	Fairhurst	St Helens	Merseyside	
David (Lofty)	Fairhurst,	St Helens,	Merseyside	
Martin	Farmer	Lincoln	Lincs	
Martin	Foster	Cheltenham	Glos	
Bob	Francis	Cheltenham	Glos	
Mike	Frankish	Lincoln	Lincs	
Paul	Friend	Loughborough	Leics	
Fiona	Galbraith	Stuttgart		Germany
Sandra (Sandie)	Gemmell	Dunoon	Argyll	Scotland
Rachelle	Goldberg	Ealing	Middlesex	

Patrick (Tiny)	Greetham	Coventry	W Midlands	
Robert	Gunther	Scunthorpe	Lincs	
Keith	Hall	Walcott	Lincs	
Pat	Hannan	Inverness		Scotland
Thom	Hardinham	Loughborough	Leics	
Mathew	Harris	Sleaford	Lincs	
Ted	Haslam	Newton Abbot	Devon	
Terry	Hawes	Costa Blanca		Spain
Cas	Hayes	Newark	Notts	
Steve	Haynes	South Milford	N Yorkshire	
Ian	Henderson	Swindon	Wilts	
Colin	Hill	Ibstock	Leics	
Clive	Honor	Ely	Cambs	
Ann	Irving	Loughborough	Leics	
Roy	Isbell	Marksfield	Leics	
Roger (Taff)	James	Cardiff		Wales
Steve	Jarvis	Loughborough	Leics	
Gerry	Kane	Loughborough	Leics	
Clive	Kidd	Fareham	Hants	
Henrik	Kiertzner	Cirencester	Glos	
Rick	Kiralfy	Leven	Fife	
Paul	Lancaster	Nottingham	Notts	
Dave	Lawrence	Coventry	W Midlands	
Andy	Marchant	Lincoln	Lincs	
Andrew	Marshall	Bathgate	W Lothian	
Rodney (Rod)	Maunder	Ware	Herts	
Dave	McCreath	Wisbech	Cambs	
Jim	McDermott	Coalville	Leics	
Linda	McDermott	Coalville	Leics	
John	Mellors	Buckingham	Bucks	
Darrell	Middleton	Lincoln	Lincs	
Geoffrey	Milward	Mansfield	Notts	
Dave	Morrison	Cheltenham	Glos	
Al	Moyes	Andover	Hants	
John	Neal	Sleaford	Lincs	

Bob	Oldfield	Great Yarmouth	Norfolk	
Lyn	Oldfield	Great Yarmouth	Norfolk	
Michael (Paddy)	Payne	Ripley	Derbys	
Sarah	Redford	Saltash	Cornwall	
Robert	Rhodes	Sleaford	Lincs	
Lloyd	Richards	Lincoln	Lincs	
Jean	Richards	Lincoln	Lincs	
Keith	Ring	Chandlers Ford	Hants	
Barrie	Rosewarn		Glos	
James	Ruddock-Broyd	Beckenham	Kent	
Eric	Sambell	Chippenham	Wilts	
Kay	Sambell	Chippenham	Wilts	
Mike	Shail	San Cayetano	Murcia	Spain
Pip	Shail	San Cayetano	Murcia	Spain
Michael	Simpson	Bielefeld		Germany
Terry	Stanley	Southampton	Hants	
Dave	Street	Tewksbury	Glos	
John	Swann	Tollerton	Notts	
Linda	Swann	Tollerton	Notts	
John	Tucker	Farnham	Surrey	
Dennis	Underwood	Leicester	Leics	
Stephen (Farmer)	Vaughan	Lincoln	Lincs	
Den	Vipond	Sunderland	Tyne & Wear	
Ron	Watson	Sleaford	Lincs	
Arthur	Weaver	Loughborough	Leics	
Dennis	Weir	Lincoln	Lincs	
Jennifer	Weir	Lincoln	Lincs	
Peter	Westwell	Whitchurch	Shropshire	
Bob	White	Coalville	Leics	
Joy	White	Coalville	Leics	
Malcolm	Wiltshire	Crawley	Sussex	



A Message from the Director General

A message to all members from the Director General of The Royal British Legion, Charles Byrne, has recently been distributed via branches. In case you missed it here is a copy of the text:

"I am writing to let you know about important plans I have for the Legion.

The most important thing is why we are here, that is why we exist as an organisation.

We are here because the Legion is at the heart of a national network that supports our Armed Forces community through thick and thin – ensuring that their unique contribution is never forgotten.

Our aim must be to help ensure that those we serve can find the range and quality of support they need, when they need it. We must also ensure the enduring responsibility of Remembrance is understood and embraced across our nation and the torch of Remembrance is passed from generation to generation.

Our new 5 year “Gateway” Strategy follows very simply from that purpose and those aims. The first step in that strategy is the creation of Veteran’s Gateway. The Legion is the leading partner in that consortium which, through collaboration with other charities and partners, will provide a first port of call for all veterans to find the support they need, from whoever is best placed to provide it.

To support this new strategy we have set four priorities:

1. Those we support – delivering the support they need through the Gateway Strategy
2. Taking 2018 and the centenary commemorations as an extraordinary opportunity to engage our nation in Remembrance and to reaffirm its enduring importance
3. Working with and supporting our Membership
4. Developing our operational excellence, that is building an efficient and effective organisation that gives great service both to those we support and the organisation itself

With the help of trustees and staff I have created a new Executive Board structure to directly drive the new strategy and deliver on these priorities. As per the attached organisation chart, I have created three new roles:

- Director of Membership & Volunteering
- Director of Strategy, Policy and Campaigning
- Director of Information, Systems and Data Management.

In particular I believe that having a dedicated Director for Membership & Volunteering will help us give proper focus and support to both our members and our volunteers. I understand that whilst sometimes members and volunteers are the same they can also be different – but both are part of that national network and both are vital to our work and who we are.

We will start recruiting immediately and expect to have all roles filled by the

summer. All staff will be made aware of these changes on 23 January with those most impacted already informed.

Please can I ask you to forward this letter by email or post to your members.

If you have any questions please do address them to feedback@britishlegion.org.uk or internal communications here in Haigh House

Best wishes,

Charles Byrne"

Scarborough Calling, Scarborough Calling

In the last newsletter we advertised a Branch Summer gathering in Scarborough over the weekend 15-16 July 2017. A good number of members has already booked in. If you are intending to be there, but have not got around to booking in yet, then be aware that accommodation will be at a premium at that time of year. To find out more Contact Dennis Weir on dennis.weir1@ntlworld.com



Scarborough - our Summer Gathering venue 2017

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