



RBL Y Services (Garats Hay) Newsletter No:5/August 2016 **[Originally sent as an email message to all members on 20 August 2016]**

1. SUMMER GATHERING AT IWM RAF DUXFORD

Your branch committee met at RAF Duxford on Saturday 23 July 2016 to conduct its regular business and was delighted to welcome RBL National Chairman Terry Whittles and his good lady wife Sue . Terry is a member of our branch and so attended the meeting as an observer but was also able to bring useful and informative dialogue to the proceedings.

After the committee meeting more branch members arrived and lunch was taken in the Armoury Café which is located right next to the airfield. After lunch, as appropriate to an RAF airfield we dispersed to the far corners of this excellent Imperial War Museum facility and explored the many exhibits set out in massive hangars. It was a bright sunny day and throughout the gathering a variety of light aircraft, some of WW2 vintage provided a noisy backdrop as they took off and landed. Without doubt a good time was had by all. So Bletchley Park in 2015, RAF Duxford in 2016 perhaps somewhere at the seaside for 2017!

2. MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

The 2015 renewals process was fraught with difficulty for all sorts of reasons and as a branch we hope that the 2016 renewal process will run smoothly. Head Office advises that:

If you joined as a new member from 1 April 2015 onwards, your membership will be due for renewal each year on the date you joined. If you joined before 1 April 2015, you will renew on 1 October 2016. Card fulfilment. When your payment is cleared, it should take up to 10 working days for you to receive your membership card. Direct Debit is the easiest way to pay for your membership as this will go through automatically on Monday 3 October. Due to reasons beyond our control, paying cash in branch takes longer to process and as a result, there may be a delay in sending out your membership card. To avoid this, please pay by Direct Debit or use Paypoint if you prefer to pay in cash and your payment will be processed more quickly. Individual notifications of renewals will be sent out during August.

3. PEDAL TO PARIS

During the period 1-4 September 2016, our former Branch President, David Whimpenny, will be taking part in the gruelling 'Pedal to Paris' cycle ride to raise money for the Poppy Appeal. Many of you will have served with David during your respective careers and will recall that he is probably more at home astride a bar stool than astride a bike saddle, so the pain which he is no doubt going to suffer should be sufficient motivation for you to sponsor this fund-raising effort.

You can do so by making an on-line donation at

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/David-Whimpenny>

Or, if you are not an on-line payment fan, you can forward a cheque to the Branch Chairman. Please e-mail him at the address on the website to obtain his postal address.

4. Easy FUNDRAISING Update

Since the branch registered with easyfundraising.org.uk just short of **£130.00** has been accrued towards the Poppy Appeal. So well done everyone who is taking part for your sterling efforts. We have 51 branch members who have signed up to this really easy way to do something for the Legion. For those that do not know the scheme works by generating a donation every time you make an online purchase via the easyfundraising.org.uk portal. It costs you nothing to register and what you purchase is exactly the same price as if you had bought it direct from one of over 3000 suppliers.

5. KEEPING IN TOUCH

This newsletter series helps to keep members informed but here is a reminder of other ways to keep in touch and up to date with branch news and business

Branch Website:

(our formal presence on the web) <http://www.garats hay.rbl.org.uk>

Facebook:

(our informal presence on the web)

y services garats hay rbl

Branch Membership Secretary Email:

(info changes to personal details) yservicesrbl@btinternet.com

Finally and sadly:

John Sands RIP

John Sands, who died recently aged 73, was well known to many of us oldies in the "Y" Services. He joined the Royal Signals in 1964 and after Spec Op training he served in many of the Army "Y" units: 225 at Scharfoldendorf, 9 Sigs Cyprus, 13 Sigs at Birgelen, 3 Sqn, Berlin, 14 Sigs at Langeleben and Celle, where he was discharged in 1986.

John was a forthright Ulsterman, who lived life to the full. He took a quiet pride in his work, the ultimate professional, who worked and played hard. John was a lovely man to know, he was very good company in his quiet unassuming way, with an infectious giggle.

In retirement he spent his summers at his camping caravan at Wienhausen, near Celle, where he and Ingrid regularly invited family and friends for weekend barbecue parties. Sadly, his last years were overtaken by illness, which curtailed his physical activity, but he remained in good spirits almost until the end.