



**RBL Y SERVICES (GARATS HAY) BRANCH NEWSLETTER  
No:7/Dec 2016**

Originally sent as a bulk email to all members on 7 Dec 2016

***GOODBYE DENNIS - HELLO NICK***

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*Outgoing Branch Chairman, Dennis Weir, congratulates newly elected Branch Chairman*

*Nick Berry at the Branch 2016 AGM*

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*This is my first Branch Newsletter as Chairman and may I extend greetings to all with the few words I gave at the Branch 2016 AGM.*

### ***A message from Incoming Branch Chairman, Nick Berry***

*Wow!*

*I don't mind admitting that, despite having thought of a few words to say on the day itself, when it actually came to standing up at the Branch's AGM after my election, all thoughts of profound eloquence quickly left me with just that one word – Wow!*

*Not a daunted 'what have you done Berry' wow; rather, a quietly confident wow mixed with a feeling of pride and honour at being given the privilege of becoming your Chairman. Regaining my thoughts, I recalled how in a tent on the sports field at Digby a good few years ago, Dennis had tapped me on the shoulder and 'convinced' me to join the Y Services Branch; and, how in the years since then, the people I've met at meetings and social gatherings have become friends and colleagues. I also spoke about the eclectic mix of individuals we are and that, irrespective of Cap Badge, Service, Trade or history, we are all part of a proud and wonderful family that is the Y Services. I reflected on the fact that our 'ship' has been well built and is on a 'steady heading'; something I do not intend on changing ("if it ain't broke, don't fix it", is, I believe, the most appropriate maxim in this situation).*

*So, for now, I shall end with a few words of thanks and acknowledgement; firstly to Dennis for his dedication and commitment over many years; he hands over a healthy and vibrant branch that has influence and standing beyond our 'virtual' existence as a National Branch. Secondly, to the committee as a whole for what I know will be continued support and hard-work - not for me, but more importantly, for you the branch members and, finally, to you, the Branch itself, for your encouragement and backing.*

*I look forward to the next three years and to the challenges and opportunities that guiding 'our ship' on its course will bring.*

***Nick Berry***

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**A message from Out-Going Branch Chairman, Denis Weir**

*On the 12th of November at the Branch AGM in Loughborough, I stood down after four years as your Branch Chairman.*

*I would just like to take this opportunity to thank our excellent committee and loyal membership for their support during my time in the chair.*

*I believe we have moved the Branch forward significantly, particularly in respect of communication with our members. The broader use of the web page, the creation of the Facebook page and the introduction of on-line newsletters have been a great step forward. The addition of 'easyfundraising' to our Poppy Appeal armoury has also been very successful.*

*My successor, Nick Berry, is a former regular Royal Air Force officer who now serves in the Reserve. A wee bit younger than most of the committee, he will bring innovation and enthusiasm to his time as Chairman. Please give him the same support as you have given to me over the last four years.*

**Dennis Weir**

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**Keeping in touch**

*Minutes of the Branch AGM will appear on the Branch website at <http://garatshay.org.uk>*

*in due course. You can also keep up to date with the latest news, views, bad jokes, old photos and dates for local get-togethers on Facebook (Y Services Garats Hay RBL).*

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**Poppy Appeal**

*A quick reminder that [easyfundraising.co.uk](http://easyfundraising.co.uk) is still going strong and adding to our contribution to the Poppy Appeal. So, if you still have Christmas presents to buy, why not do it online via [www.easyfundraising.co.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.co.uk)*

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**Off the Web**

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Our branch Webmaster, Sarah Drummond, is standing down after many years dedicated service keeping <http://garatshay.org.uk/> refreshed and up to date so your committee is seeking a replacement for this important role. Full details of what is involved will appear in a later issue but, if you are interested and have relevant experience of maintaining a website, please do let me know.

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To close this final newsletter of 2016 – season's greetings to one and all and best wishes for a happy and prosperous 2017.

Yours in comradeship

**Nick Berry**

Branch Chairman

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