



November 2020

# ARMISTICE DAY 2020



Branch member and Chairman of Trustees of the National Memorial Arboretum, Lt Col (Retd) David Whimpenny, greeting their Royal Highnesses, the Earl and Duchess of Wessex, on Armistice Day 2020. Story and more pics on page 2.

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It is with deep regret that we report the death of Dave Clough on 13 Nov 2020. Dave served in the 1970s as an Intelligence Corps linguist. Condolences on behalf of the Branch have been sent to his widow Tricia. May he rest in peace.



## Remembering Armistice Day

The Earl and Countess of Wessex laid wreaths during an Armistice Day service at the National Memorial Arboretum. Edward and Sophie were accompanied by dignitaries in a service marking the end of the First World War at 11am on 11th November 1918.



David Whimpenny recited the exhortation and our Branch Standard Bearer, David Lawrence, paraded the NMA Standard standing in for Beth, the NMA Standard Bearer, who paraded the Union flag.



Click on this link to see a video of the event at: [Armistice Day Service of Remembrance - Bing video](#)



### Branch Condolence Card

As many of you may know, when a Branch member dies, in addition to extending condolences to the bereaved family, we also ask if they would like the Branch Standard to be on parade at the member's funeral. With the restrictions imposed by Covid19, parading the Standard has not always been possible and instead, to provide perhaps some measure of comfort, we have produced a Branch Condolence card. The front cover was specially painted by Branch member Karen Brutnell, our Branch Community Support representative.

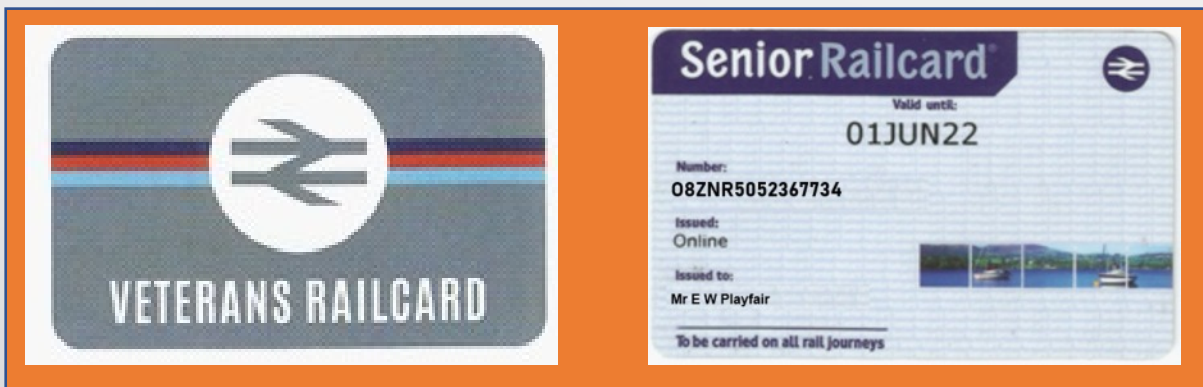


### New Veteran's Railcard

The new Veteran's Railcard, which is now on sale, will save veterans 1/3 off most rail fares. The card is available now at a special introductory price until 31 March 2021 of just £21 for 1 year or £61 for a 3 year Railcard

This compares very favourably with the Senior Railcard which is £30 for 1 year and £70 for 3 years.

Full details at [www.veterans-railcard.co.uk](http://www.veterans-railcard.co.uk)



£21 for 1 year or £61 for 3 years

£30 for 1 year or £70 for 3 years



Keep in touch every day via our Facebook group 'RBL Y Services'

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1253401141501009>



## Branch AGM 2020

The Branch AGM 2020 took place online, via Zoom, on 14 November 2020 and was 'attended by 22 members. All of the Branch Committee continue in post and co-opted Branch Committee member Karen Brutnell was confirmed as a full member of the committee. Karen is the Branch Community Support Representative (the post was previously referred to as 'Welfare).

## Highlights

Branch President, Eric Sambell, looked back on a year in which, because of Covid19, we have had to cancel our Summer gathering and limited the recognition of 100 years since the formation of the Royal Corps of Signals, 80 years since the Battle of Britain, the formation of the Intelligence Corps and, 75 years ago, the ending of WW2. Because of the pandemic, collecting for the Poppy Appeal has been severely curtailed and we need to do all we can to sustain it. Any extra donations however small will be most welcome.

Most voluntary organisations that I am familiar with struggle, not through lack of members but with a shortage of those prepared to take up office. I can certainly assure you that this is not the case with this Branch. I can report that your committee continues to be extremely effective and I congratulate both the committee and our members in raising over £8000 for the refurbishment of the Y services plot.

Branch Chairman, Jim McDermott, thanked everyone for their hard work and commitment since the last AGM, especially considering the current difficulties that we all face. He reviewed the objectives set at the 2019 AGM, reporting that membership has increased a little, easyfundraising continues to attract donations, communication with members has improved via Facebook and a monthly Branch newsletter. A sign for the Y Services plot at the NMA has been installed and sufficient funds raised to pay for the enhancements to the plot.

Key issues for 2021 are:

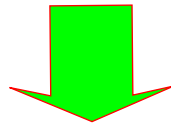
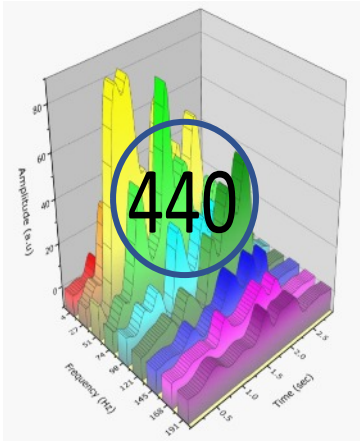
- Increase Branch membership
- Complete the refurbishment of the Y Services plot
- Organise a formal opening and rededication
- Deliver a Summer Gathering 2021
- Maintain our links with Welbeck College, Loughborough RSA and St. Mary in the Elms Church.

Other highlights from the AGM

- We will be sending just over £2,000 to the Poppy Appeal
- The Branch accounts were presented and adopted
- Branch Treasurer, Lyn Oldfield, will be investigating moving the Branch to online banking and the creation of a property book for the Branch assets.
- Karen Brutnell and John Swann volunteered to attend the NBD Annual Conference as Branch Delegates in January 2021, which will probably be via Zoom.
- Dave Lawrence and Karen Brutnell volunteered to attend the RBL National Conference 2021.
- Dave Street was nominated as a candidate for the Membership Council elections in 2021



### Current Branch Membership



-1  
Since last month



We extend a warm Y Services welcome, this month, to new member

**Adrian Moseley**

### Y Services Memorial Garden

Following the very successful campaign to raise funds for the refurbishment of the Y Services Memorial Garden at the NMA, the firm 'Artisans of Ashby' has been awarded the contract to carry out the work to replace the Y shaped footpath. It is hoped that the work will be completed in late January 2021. A rededication event is planned for some time in 2021.



### Editorial note:

Contributions to this monthly Branch Newsletter are always welcome on any topics members think will be of general interest. We aim to provide uplifting stories and attempt not to duplicate messages already sent from RBL HQ. Copy should be sent by email, to the editor Jim McDermott at [jjim.mcdermott77@ntlworld.com](mailto:jjim.mcdermott77@ntlworld.com) Preferred format is unformatted MS Word and any photos, cartoons or pictures should be submitted separately as JPEGs



### Technical stuff

This newsletter is originated in MS Word Typeset in Serif PagePlusx9 and compiled as a PDF. Using Adobe Acrobat, the PDF is stored on the Branch Web site and hyperlinked as a button in MailChimp and distributed to all our 400 plus members with an email address Primary layout and hyperlinks are designed for PCs



## Poppy Appeal Fundraising the Easy Way

Just over two years since we first registered with 'easyfundraising,' the Branch has raised £1860.10. With Christmas looming on the horizon, NOW is just the right time to sign up to 'easyfundraising' and begin to painlessly and easily raise funds for the RBL Poppy Appeal. Click on the (massive) link below and you will be taken to the site illustrated - then click on 'Support this Cause'

[https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/rblyservices/?invite=1ZDAEU&referral-campaign=c2s&utm\\_campaign=admin-trigger&utm\\_content=srt&fbclid=IwAR3-SFIOCKva9QLPxZdIsox4J1C0\\_2jxko2MEafkvXWP5zC4MZamXMj1G8](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/rblyservices/?invite=1ZDAEU&referral-campaign=c2s&utm_campaign=admin-trigger&utm_content=srt&fbclid=IwAR3-SFIOCKva9QLPxZdIsox4J1C0_2jxko2MEafkvXWP5zC4MZamXMj1G8)

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the easyfundraising website. At the top, there is a purple banner for BT with the text 'Donation increased up to £42.50 - Get 3 months off BT' and a 'Shop now' button. Below this is a white navigation bar with the easyfundraising logo, a search bar, and buttons for 'Search', 'Promote my cause', and 'Account'. A yellow banner below the navigation bar reads '£5 bonus donation\* when you sign up' with a link to 'Terms and conditions apply'. The main content area has a dark blue background with the text 'Raise donations for RBL Y Services (Garats HaY) Branch whenever you shop online'. Below this, it says 'Turn your everyday online shopping into FREE donations' and 'Over £32m raised for good causes through easyfundraising'. A central white card displays the easyfundraising logo, the text 'Support RBL Y Services (Garats HaY) Branch', and the statistics '£1,860.10 Total raised' and '79 Supporters'. A pink button at the bottom of the card says 'Support this cause'. The Windows taskbar is visible at the bottom of the browser window.

### The Branch Chairman says:

Our Branch membership has stood steady at around 440 and sort of stuck there for some time. Like most clubs or membership organisations we need to continually top up and recruit new members. Given the many years that the Y Services Organisation has operated and the many thousands of fine folk who spent their military careers in defence of the realm 'toiling' in its many and varied pits, posts and positions, our membership could and probably should really be a lot more.

In the next few months we plan to launch a recruiting drive on social media but it would be great if each and every Branch member reading this could appoint themselves as a local area marketing manager and spread the word to that old (or young) mate you see occasionally that you served with at [somewhere at sea/on the land/in the air] and introduce the notion of becoming an RBL member and even a member of our Branch. Let's be clear, though, anyone can join any Branch, we just like to use the common interest aspect of the Y Service as a USP (that's 'unique selling proposition')!

Jim McDermott



## Poetry Corner

### Another A Word?

Do "A" words cause an allergy  
that blocks the brain?.....Or is it me?  
Is it true as some assert  
that folks don't apprehend a lert?  
Is everyone now less a stute?  
Their wits and senses less a cute?  
A ware..... of Covid's deep a byss?  
A vid to give 19 a miss?  
A llowed to be a lert and roam?  
A dvised to just a bide at home?  
A fraid? or a nxious to a llay  
a ssumptions we've been led a stray?  
Should we a pply some commonsense...  
or just a ccept we're all too dense?

We've a mple words a round today  
That a ddle us and start with "A"  
"I am pants!" is "a ntispam"  
a ssembled as an a nagram!  
With a ptitudes we can exploit  
are we a ssumed to be a droit?  
Do a ctors who are **not** inept  
get a ccolades 'cos they're a dept?  
Is a wash just like a blution  
Is a cquittal a bsolution?  
To get a tower to a spire  
should we just a ppoint it higher?

Do chanting monks and nuns (a cquire?)  
bad habits... or wear strange a ttire?  
D'you man a gunboat with a ccruce?  
A vowel? .....A E I O U??  
Musicians make a tone a tune.  
In maths they make a lone a lune.  
Have furloughs on the Cote D'A zure  
been "virused-out"...lost their a llure?  
Is ev'ry a morous young Latin  
still "a mo, a mas, a mat"-in'?

And are we being sexist when  
we end our daily prayers "A men"?  
If gender-levelling a pplies  
misogyny should **not** a rise.....  
so priests when finishing a mass  
a ssuredly should a dd "A las(s)"?  
We still have a ncient malcontents  
who think in quids, and bobs and pence  
ask what's a foot in metric lengths?  
A nounce? Check a voirduois scale!  
Did D-Day (metrication) fail?  
Was that a ttempt to no a vail?



And who could cease to be a mazed  
at the a mount of dosh he raised  
when Captain Tom went walk-a-bout  
like A ction Man or Beaver Scout?

Trafalgar Day! And zut a lors!  
The French fleet's on a run-a shore!  
Instead of shouting "ship a hoy!"  
when he a ddressed his cabin boy,  
do hist'ry a nnals now concur  
that Villeneuve said "A l'eau c'est l'heure!?"

A ntagonise those men in blue  
you'll soon hear "Let's Be A venue!  
A ccomp'ny me down to the station  
A ccount for every a llegation!"  
A Chippy owner's charged by Plod:  
"A ssa(u)lt and battery of cod!"  
The bookie's charge is just as grim:  
"For a iding and a betting him!"  
The judge then a dvocates "A dmonished!"  
A ccused shout "A wesome! We're a stonished!"  
The Judge a ppeals; "I can't excuse  
that Yankee a djective you use!  
Six months nick! ....For word a buse!"

By now I think you'd all a gree  
I've overreached my a pogee.  
I've risked-a verse, (so ill-a dvised!)  
should now be psycho-a nalyzed?!?  
A ssesment?..... Language-wise? Inventive?  
No!.....Just a nally retentive!  
I've no more A words up my sleeve...  
my brain's gone..... A bsent ....**With Out Leave!**

Jobe May 2020

*Many thanks to Branch member John Berry  
for this witty verse which played havoc with  
my spell checker!*

*John has written many more for you to en-  
joy in future issues.*