

Her Majesty The Queen at Westminster Abbey as the RBL Celebrates its Centenary



**Members of the Branch were there too.
Story on page 2**

RBL Y Services Branch on the Web

This month we celebrate the work of one of our backroom team, Branch Webmaster Dave Rice. The Branch Website is a great way to keep in touch and up to date with Branch matters in a safe and secure online environment. Our website is also where we keep past copies of the Branch Newsletter. See page 3.



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2 x volunteers needed to fill vacant positions on the Branch Committee from the 2021 AGM: Contact Branch Secretary John Swann by email if you are interested.

Yservices.secretary@rbl.community

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David & Chris Whimpenny in 3rd row

Our Branch was well represented at the Royal British Legion Centenary Service at Westminster Abbey on Tuesday 12 October 2021. Legion Trustee David Whimpenny, his wife Chris and former Legion Chairman Terry Whittles and his wife Sue attended. Branch Chairman Jim McDermott, accompanied by his wife Linda, was also there; Jim was invited having received a Legion Centenary award. Terry told our reporter that as he was leaving the Abbey he trod on a lady's foot and turned to apologise only to find that the foot belonged to the actress Dame Penelope Keith! Her response to his apology is not on record.



Queuing to get in



The Princess Royal
read the Lesson

The State Trumpeters of the Household Cavalry and the fanfare team from the Band of the Grenadier Guards were in attendance along with The Legion's own Central Band.

The service was conducted by the Very Reverend Dr David Hoyle, Dean of Westminster



The Dean gave an interesting and entertaining address emphasising the Legion's notion of 'Service not Self'. Chief of the Defence Staff, General Sir Nick Carter recited a prayer for the Armed Forces and Colour Sergeant Johnson Beharry VC, a prayer for those who speak up for HM Forces in Parliament.. After a quite magnificent and colourful service of celebrations the bells of the Abbey were rung as the congregation spilled out into bright sunshine.

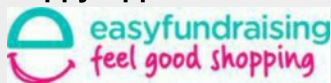
Branch Chairman's Message

I was honoured to be invited to Westminster Abbey to attend the Legion's Centenary Service: see report on page two. As the dust settles on our very successful rededication ceremony at the NMA on 7 September, I am now asking once again for members to put their hands in their pockets and contribute regularly to the fund which will keep the Y Services Memorial at the NMA always ready for inspection. Details of how you can become a Friend of the Y Services Memorial are on page 7. Despite the pandemic, this has been a busy year for the Branch and there will be a lot to look back on at the AGM. I look forward to seeing as many members as possible at our AGM on Saturday 13 November and at St Mary in the Elms on Sunday 14 November for the Remembrance service.

Stay safe and stay well

Jim McDermott, Branch Chairman

Poppy Appeal Fundraising the Easy Way



We continue to raise funds for the Poppy Appeal year round using this really easy system. To register and attract a donation every time you make an online purchase with any of the thousands of participating retailers GO TO:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/rblyservices/?invite=1DZNV&referral-campaign=s2s>



Website design

Our Branch website at

<https://garatshay.org.uk/> carefully follows the Legion specification in terms of appearance, design style and graphics but has been totally created for the Branch by our Webmaster Dave Rice. Dave is serving in the RAF but finds time to regularly update our site. The website has a photo gallery, Branch news, previous copies of this Newsletter, details of our different fundraising schemes, a 'Find a Friend' feature and a fully secure Discussion area. You will need to register to gain access and contribute to Discussions, email Dave on yserVICES.webmaster@rbl.community for details



REMEMBRANCE SERVICE, ST MARY-IN-THE-ELMS CHURCH, WOODHOUSE, LEICESTERSHIRE, LE12 8UZ, SUNDAY 14th NOVEMBER 2021

The annual Remembrance Day Service will take place at St Mary-in-the-Elms Church, Woodhouse, Leicestershire on Sunday 14th November 2021, commencing at 1045 hours. During the service, a collection will be taken for The Poppy Appeal.

Our Branch Standard will be on parade along with the Royal Signals Association Loughborough Branch Standard. After the service there will be a short parade at the village war memorial for the laying of wreaths. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided in the village hall at the conclusion.

A donation box will be placed by the door and donations will be welcome to defray the cost of refreshments, the hire of the hall and the service from the Ladies of Woodhouse.

Personnel attending are advised to arrive by 1030 hours latest, as this annual event is always well attended. Parking is across the road from the church in the village hall grounds. Please **DO NOT PARK** outside the church entrance, as this is reserved for disabled members.

The event is being ably organised, as in previous years, by Bob White and if you are attending, please let Bob know via robertwhite400@btinternet.com so numbers can be notified in advance. Nil returns not required.

A 3-course lunch will be available at Longcliffe Golf Club, 1300-1330 hrs at a cost of £18.00 per person. If you wish to avail yourself of this, please let **Bob White know by 1st November 2021** latest. However, if you book lunch but fail to turn up you will still be charged.



Membership News

We currently have
440
Branch Members

A warm welcome to two
new members
this month

David Newell
Rick Retallick

Membership

New members to the Branch are always welcome and like any organisation, we rely on our own members to help find new recruits and point them in the direction of our Membership Secretary Peter Derrick

Please direct anyone interested in joining our fine Branch to
yservices.memsecretary@rbl.com
[munity](http://rbl.com/munity)

Competing Standards

The annual National Branches District standard bearer competition was held on Saturday 9th October 2021 at Hatton Village Hall, Warwickshire. Following the cancellation of the event last year due to Covid-19, a reduced number of competitors took part this year. There were just two, 'Y' Services Branch SB Dave Lawrence and Beth Grey from the National Memorial Arboretum Branch (who carried the Union Standard at our memorial rededication in September).

Beth has held the position of NBD standard bearer since the competition began in 2017 and after another outstanding performance won again this year. She will be formally 'charged' with the position at the NBD annual meeting in January and will also retain the 'John Clark' trophy. Dave clearly came in as runner-up, but will now be formally appointed as Deputy NBD standard bearer – again at the District annual meeting in January. Congratulations to both.

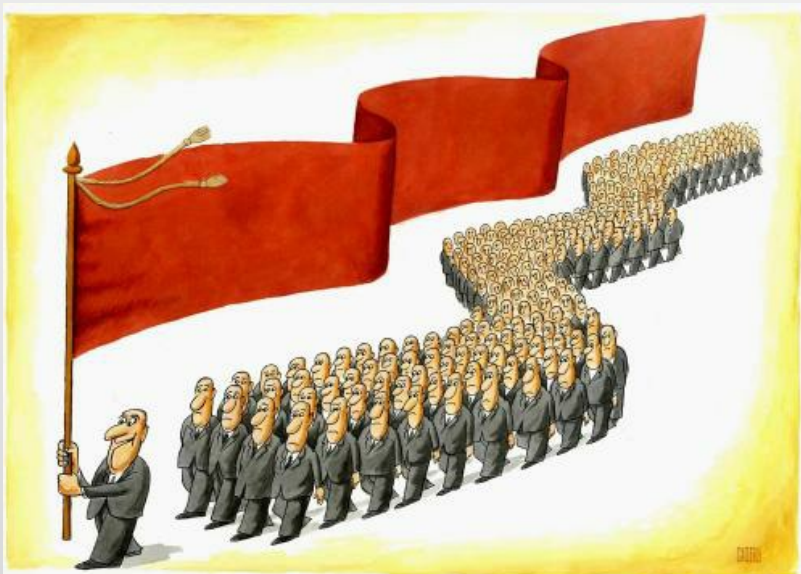
Thanks for the organisation of the day go to the RBL Warwickshire & Birmingham County



Dave Lawrence in action



Winner and Runner Up



2021 AGM

The 2021 Annual General Meeting of the The Royal British Legion "Y" Services Branch will be held at the Greenfields Sports & Social Club, Holt Drive, Loughborough LE11 3HZ, on **Saturday 13th November 2021, commencing at 2pm.**

All members are welcome to attend. Although not required for attendance, please let the Branch Secretary know if you are planning to attend as this will allow advance planning for the seating required. Please email John Swann on y.services.secretary@rbl.community

Bletchley Park Presents

An Event by Bletchley Park, open to anyone.

A virtual talk where Dr David Abrutat, GCHQ's Departmental Historian, will reveal how Bletchley Park's Ultra intelligence was shared across the globe. Dr Abrutat will reveal the importance of the elaborate network of Special Communications Units (SCU) and Special Liaison Units (SLU) who shared Bletchley Park's signals intelligence (SIGINT) during World War Two.



The event is free but you have to register first at

<https://bletchleypark.org.uk/.../bp-presents-dr-david.../>

Registration closes on Tues 26 October at 13.00. Once registered, you will be sent a link on Tues 26 October to access the virtual talk on Wednesday 27 October at 13.00 BST. Whilst the virtual event is free donations to the Bletchley Park Trust are always welcome

Branch Calendar 2022

There has been considerable interest in the idea of a Branch Calendar for 2022 and the calendars will be printed in early November. Cost is £5.00 per calendar plus £1.50 p&p (Total £6.50)

To place a firm order please contact Jim McDermott on:

Email: jimm26489@gmail.com

stating number required and address for despatch

Payment in advance please preferably via Bank Transfer to:

Sort Code: 77-15-14 OR, order and pay and collect your
Account Number: 55527060 calendar(s) at the Branch AGM and save
Ref: Calendar on the p&p

To pay in any other way, please request details in your email when ordering.

All profits will go via the Branch to the Poppy Appeal



Calendar mock up for illustration

Maintaining the Y Services Memorial and Garden at the NMA

The Y Services Memorial at the NMA, which is owned and managed by our Branch is, as many members will know, a large plot consisting of a grassed area, several wooden benches and a Y shaped footpath in the centre of which is a memorial stone and plaque. The plot is surrounded by yew hedging with an inner circle of hedging which adds to its quiet and peaceful atmosphere. An engraved stone sign stands at the entrance.

As a National Branch we do not of course have the luxury of being able to meet up regularly, face to face, as is the case with local Branches but what we can do is identify the Y Services Memorial as a focus of our year round remembrance efforts (a key element of the Legion's ethos). The whole site, including the grassed area, trees and hedges have to be maintained and kept looking inspection ready year round; the benches require regular attention and the memorial stone and entrance sign given an occasional spring clean.



The NMA is able to undertake these tasks on our behalf and have the staff, equipment and expertise to do so. However, this clearly comes at a cost and we are asking all our members to consider making a very small monthly contribution to a fund specifically for this purpose. A few members have already taken out a monthly Standing Order for £3.00. This does not sound much but in a year's time we hope to have enough members participating to achieve the amount required: £1750 (including vat). £3.00 is a suggested amount; some members have already and generously pledged more.

Many thanks to members who have already taken out Standing Orders or have made similar arrangements towards the maintenance fund.

Remember, it's just £3.00 a month payable on a day to suit you. Here is how you can become a Friend of the Y Services Memorial:

Please take out a Standing Order made payable to:

Sort Code 40-30-24 Account No: 61824007

Amount: £3.00 monthly (or more if you wish).

Account Name: *Garats Hay Royal British Legion Branch*

Reference: FOYSM.

Please note that this is a Business account.

When you have set up your Standing Order please kindly let our treasurer know by email: yservices.treasurer@rbl.community or by post:

FOYSM c/o
58 Beatty Road
Great Yarmouth
NR30 4BQ

Thank you



For other ways to contribute please contact our
Branch Treasurer

Blokes Reunited!

(Inspired by Sara Butler and Bob White)

These blokes, who've reached the big four O,
are keen to work out where to go
to celebrate this "Big O" age.
(For years to come, this sets the stage!)
Within their boozy scrum, this bunch
debate where they should meet for lunch,
then, speaking with one single voice
eventually, declare their choice.

Their poll shows every bloke believes
the Old Bull's Head in Woodhouse Eaves
to be the pub they use this season
for one very simple reason.
The factor that had tipped the scales
was nought to do with food..... or ales....
but female staff..... outrageous flirts
with massive boobs and mini-skirts!

It's big five O now, ten years on
and time for their "reunion".
Views ebb and flow, then comes the crunch
on where they're going to meet for lunch.....
their chosen place for breaking bread.....
is Woodhouse Eaves..... the Old Bull's Head!
Their arguments? Their reasons why?
Those barmaids! Pleasing on the eye,
whose conversation's never dull....
teasing, not quite on the pull,
but flirting with their clientele.
(They pull a decent pint as well!)
And furthermore, the menu's good....
home-made steak and kidney pud!



Now in their sixties, past their prime,
they vote where they should meet this
time.

Consensus reached! Each bloke per-
ceives
the Old Bull's Head..... in Wood-
house Eaves
will fit the bill, tick ev'ry box
(much better than The Quorndon Fox!)
There's total unanimity.....
they've got Sky Sports!..... and Wifi's
free!

Some other plus-points do prevail....
they serve delicious steak and ale!
There's ample parking for their car
and ABBA music in the bar.

Aged seventy, this self-same bunch
discuss the venue for their lunch.
Eventually each one's agreed
The White Hart won't fulfil their need....
but Woodhouse Eaves..... the Old
Bull's Head
should be their rendez-vous instead!
Their thinking? Well, it's not too far.
There's wheelchair access to the bar,
what's more, that ramp up to the
"gents"
helps cope with their incontinence.
For those guys in financial straits?
Old Age Pension discount rates!

Ten years on, aged 80 plus
they once again convene, discuss
exactly where they'll go this year
for luncheon and their pints of beer.
The creaking of their Zimmer frames
does not deflect them from their aims.

Finally, they make their case
for one specific meeting place.....
This one they'd kept well up their
sleeves.....

.....the Old Bull's Headin
Woodhouse Eaves!

Their spokesman states: "This year
we're keen
to try somewhere we've never been!!"



Rover and Out?

(For Jan and Art Weaver)

Let's put the horse before the cart,
and call this "Jimmy" simply..... Art.
At Garats Hay he'd done a course
which taught him dits and dahs of morse.

Career in spying now before 'im
off he went to Blandford Forum
there to polish up his skills
amongst those scenic Dorset Hills.
From there, he visits Chelt'nham Spa
and while he's drinking in the bar
of the Dorincourt Hotel

he fell for quite a stunning gel.
The Women's Royal Army Corps
had posted ladies by the score
and all of them were in disguise
as civvies..... but were airwave spies!
(The RAPC sent one maid
who guaranteed they all got paid!
Civvy clothing and missed meals
were part of Oakley's payday deals!)

At weekends from that day, guess who?
(this spec op with the wit to wool!)
drove to a Chelt'nham rendez-vous.

His battered banger (Standard Eight)
made Del Boy Trotter's car look great!



Then came a day they both recall
when Blandford held a summer ball.
A posh "do" at the School of Sigs
where chaps put on their mess-kit rigs.

An invite's promptly sent to Jan
who RSVP's "Yes I can!"

For such a special "do" Art thought
more fitting transport should be sought.
"Certa Cito! Sh*t or bust!
Can't fetch Jan in this heap of rust!"
A mate chips in: "I'll help you there!
I've got a Rover I can spare!"



Eschewing cocoa tins and string
Art gave the Dorincourt a ring.

"I'll pick you up at half past five!
Be on the steps when I arrive.
Glad-rags on!.....and don't be late!
I've hired a Rover from a mate!"

The lass felt like a movie star!
She'd never been in such a car.
Her best experience so far
was taxi cabs, but nothing finer
than an ancient Morris Minor.

Nor was she loath to comment on
the lengths to which her beau had gone!
She told her fellow lady spies
who turned to monsters with green eyes.
"It's clear my paramour is smitten!"
(Foolish maid!Twice shy..... once bitten!)
"My guy knows how to treat a girl!"
She gave her Cav House frock a twirl.

Blissful....thrilled to bits.....in clover.....
awaits her chauffeur-driven Rover,

.....coiffed.....perfumed.....and dressed to kill,
she waits impatiently.....until.....
at Dorincourt.....five twenty-five,
her "carriage" lumbers up the drive,
comes to a stop! A squeal of brakes.
Jan's jaw drops her foundation quakes.....

A Rover!!! Caked in farmyard slop.....
the Mark One version.....(canvas top!)

