

Y Services Memorial at the NMA All lit up!

Story: page 2

In Memoriam 2021

Dave Clough
Jackie Fowler
Pat Seymour-Smith
Bernie McCormick
Bert Taylor.
May they rest in peace

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Y Service Memorial and Garden all lit up



The Y Services Memorial and garden formed part of the illuminated Arboretum light display. This same picture, above, was used for the on-line Branch Christmas card.

Over a period of 10 days, 7 – 18 December 2021, the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) laid on a magnificent light display providing a kaleidoscope of colour and magic. Visitors followed a trail which, we are delighted to report, included our very own Y Services memorial garden.



Branch member and Chairman of the NMA, David Whimpenny, told our reporter that over the 10 days, 1100 pairs of feet tramped along the Y shaped pathway, the main feature of the Y Services Organisation Memorial and Garden. This is probably the heaviest volume of traffic on the footpath since the new surface was laid in July.

You can see a short video of 'Illuminated Arboretum' at: <https://youtu.be/lxj3qI0QZk4>

Friends of the Y Services Memorial (FOYSM).

The appeal for members to make a regular contribution to the costs of maintaining the Y Services Memorial and Garden at the NMA has been very successful. Sincere thanks to everyone who has so kindly and generously taken out a monthly standing order or pledged an annual amount. If you have not yet signed up you still can. Drop an email to our Branch Treasurer, Lynda Oldfield, for details: yservices.treasurer@rbl.community



Branch Calendar 2022

The Branch Calendar was a great success. A net profit of £100 was donated to the Branch Accounts to be allocated to the Poppy Appeal. Thanks to everyone who bought one or more calendars.

Membership

As at 19 December 2021, membership stood at 446. We plan to make a concerted effort in 2022 to attract more members to the Legion and to our Branch, in particular those still serving in the present-day equivalents of the Y Services.

Joining more than one Branch

Members may be aware that it is now possible to join more than one RBL Branch, but you only need to pay the annual fee for one Branch. The additional Branch or Branches joined may, or may not, also ask for payment of their admin fee. Your Branch Committee deliberated on this and decided at its meeting in November 2021 that we would request payment of the annual £5.00 admin fee. The admin fee, as the name implies, helps us to administer the Branch.

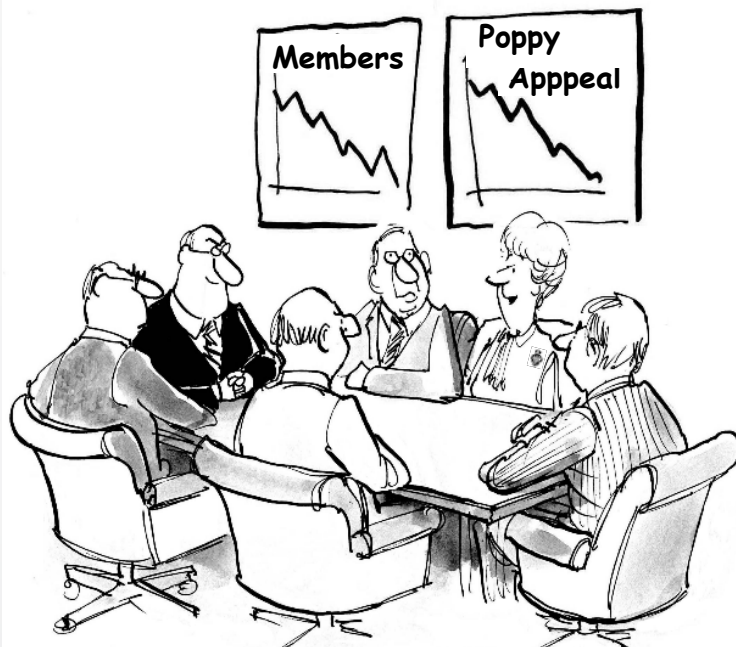
Your Branch Committee Needs you... and you!

There are still two vacant positions to fill on the Branch Committee. The committee 'runs' the Branch, promotes the Legion, runs fund raising events and activities. Where and when possible the Branch supports veterans in need, although as a National Branch we are limited to some extent as to how much help we can practically provide and generally steer people to their geographically local Branch or the Legion helpline. Our Standard Bearer parades our Standard at several events during most years and, when requested, attends members' funerals.

The role of a committee member is far from onerous; we meet four times year (one meeting being via Zoom) and keep in touch otherwise via the Legion's own O365 email network.

If you would like to join the Branch Committee and help us make 2022 even better than 2021 then please get in touch with Branch Secretary John Swann via email:

yservices.secretary@rbl.community



"What if we don't change at all ... and something magical just happens?"



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

jim.mcdermott77@ntlworld.com

Preferred format is unformatted MS Word and any photos, cartoons or pictures should be submitted separately as JPEGs.

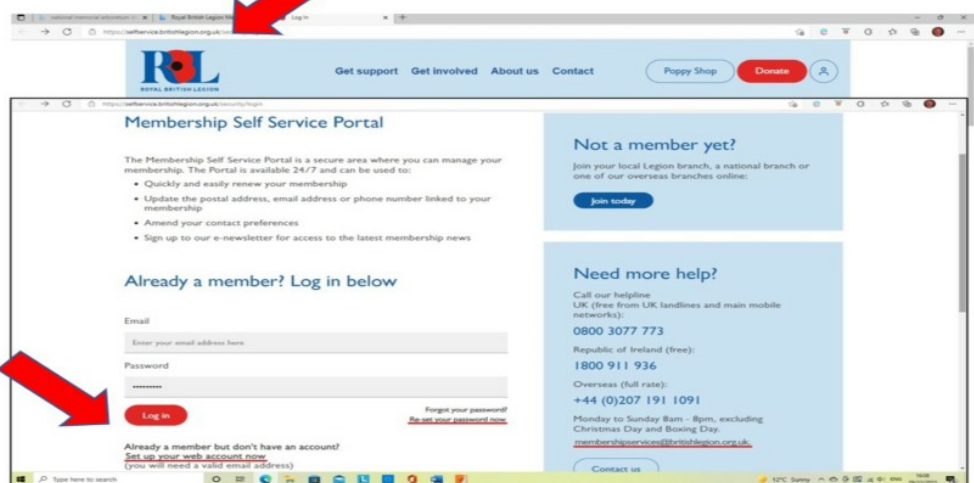
Your Data and Your Preferences

A member mentioned recently that he had never received a copy of the Legion Magazine. A quick look at that member's data revealed selection of 'no mail' in communication preferences. As the Legion magazine is sent by post selecting 'no mail' means 'no magazine'. However every member can view the data the Legion membership department holds for them and keep it up to date by editing it via the Legion's self-help portal. To do this you first need to sign in – or if you do not have an account create one.

Go to: <https://selfservice.britishlegion.org.uk/security/login>

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<https://selfservice.britishlegion.org.uk/security/login>



Membership Self Service Portal

The Membership Self Service Portal is a secure area where you can manage your membership. The Portal is available 24/7 and can be used to:

- Quickly and easily renew your membership
- Update the postal address, email address or phone number linked to your membership
- Amend your contact preferences
- Sign up to our e-newsletter for access to the latest membership news

Already a member? Log in below

Email
Enter your email address here

Password

Log in

[Forgot your password?](#)
[Set up your password now](#)

Not a member yet?
Join your local Legion branch, a national branch or one of our overseas branches online.
Join today

Need more help?
Call our helpline
UK (free from UK landlines and main mobile networks):
0800 3077 773
Republic of Ireland (free):
1800 911 936
Overseas (full rate):
+44 (0)207 191 1091
Monday to Sunday 8am - 8pm, excluding Christmas Day and Boxing Day.
membershipservices@britishlegion.org.uk

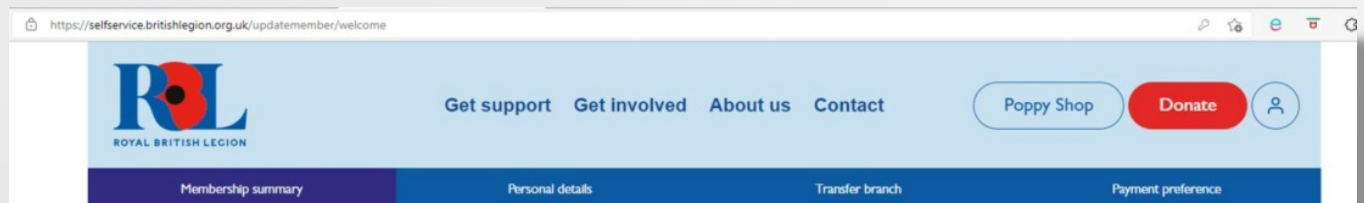
Already a member but don't have an account?
[Set up your web account now](#)
(You will need a valid email address)

2

Already a member but don't have an account?
[Set up your web account now](#)

3

Follow the on screen instructions. You will need your email address, membership number and date of birth. You will also need to create (and remember) a password.



<https://selfservice.britishlegion.org.uk/updatemember/welcome>

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Get support Get involved About us Contact

Poppy Shop Donate

Membership summary **Personal details** Transfer branch Payment preference

Once you are logged in you can

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- Edit your personal details
- Set your communication preferences
- Sign up for gift aid
- Check your membership fee renewal date and more...

The Legion's Annual Conference 2022

Annual Conference is the official conference of the Royal British Legion, acting as both an Annual General Meeting for the organisation and as a body for voting on RBL-wide regulations.

Branches are represented by delegates who are able to debate and vote on motions and Charter motions and have their say during the Membership Forum.

How many delegates a Branch can send is dictated by Branch size and we are entitled to two delegates. We already have one volunteer and there is one delegate place to fill.

Any Branch member can represent the Branch and will receive a full briefing, agenda and list of motions prior to the event. This is a great opportunity to represent the Branch, find out how the Legion operates and meet other members from far and wide. It's not all talk and serious business, there is always some form of entertainment and an opportunity to socialise in the evenings. The Legion 2022 Annual Conference is being held in central London 13-15 May 2022. Expenses can be claimed.

If interested in representing the Branch at Conference 2022 please contact the Branch Secretary John Swann by email on: yservices.secretary@rbl.community

Chairman's message

Dear Members

I think I can safely say that we can look back on what has been a very successful year for the Y Services Branch. Spiritually, we all participated in a wonderfully moving rededication ceremony at the NMA. Socially, we had a very good Summer Gathering in Chippenham and a wonderful couple of days in Hamstall Ridware. Financially, we were able to send £2000 to the Poppy Appeal and were also able to set up a fund which should ensure the upkeep of our NMA memorial for the foreseeable future. We achieved all these things with input from every member of the committee and of course our ever-supportive Branch members who have generously supported our several appeals, bought a copy or copies of our 2022 calendar and turned up in person at the NMA and at Old Woodhouse on Remembrance Day.

Thank you one and all but particular thanks to Branch members Gill Bennett and Lindsay Stewart for their Poppy Appeal efforts in the Lincoln 10km, an event which took place in totally horrendous weather

Next year we already have a Summer Gathering planned in Hamstall Ridware to look forward to and hope to return to the Quorn Manor Hotel for our Remembrance Weekend.

Kind regards and best wishes for a Happy and Prosperous 2022

Jim McDermott
Branch Chairman

Note: My Chairman's message text above was inspired by kind words to the Branch Committee from Vice Chairman Dennis Weir.

