

# PROMOTING GIFT AID



**Another painless way to help raise funds for the Legion Poppy appeal  
- see page 2**

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**It is with great sadness  
that we report the death  
of Branch Member  
Sarah Bladon  
(former WRAC/Intelligence Corps)  
May she rest in peace.**

## Poster Sale for RBL Poppy Appeal

The sale of seven World War Two reproduction posters, promoted in the January 2022 issue of this Newsletter, netted **£60** for the Poppy Appeal. Many thanks to everyone who bought a poster – every little helps.

The poster sale was a one-off initiative and all Branch members are encouraged, please, to have a go at raising their own contribution to swell the amount we, as a Branch, send to the Poppy Appeal. All legal approaches welcomed and space will always be found in this Newsletter to record your ingenious efforts.

For details of how to donate to the Branch Poppy appeal contact our Branch Treasurer on [yseervices.treasurer@rbl.community](mailto:yseervices.treasurer@rbl.community)



## Membership Gift Aid

Gift Aid - is another easy way to contribute to the Legion's fundraising efforts. The following is adapted from the Members Handbook (2016):

*The Royal British Legion Membership benefits from Gift Aid. We ask members to consider ticking the Gift Aid box on their membership form, as we are allowed to claim Gift Aid on membership subscriptions under an exemption agreed with HMRC. The charity can reclaim 25p on every £1 that is donated. So, for example, on a membership fee of £18, we receive an additional £4.50 per member. If every member who is a British tax payer would tick the Gift Aid box, this would raise the Legion's General Fund income by 25%. At the moment, just under 45% of our Branch members are Gift Aiding their subscriptions, whereas we believe that over 90% qualify.*

You can easily sign up for Gift Aid by editing your membership details online in the Membership Self Help Portal. Just go to:

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

Open an account if you do not already have one – you'll need to provide your membership number, an email address and your date of birth and create password. Then just follow the on-screen instructions to ensure your membership subscription contributes to Gift Aid.



## Branch News

### *Branch Chairman's Message.*

*Once again a quiet month in terms of Branch activity. Your Branch committee met up online via Zoom during the month to discuss, among other things, Branch recruiting and the 2022 Summer Gathering and articles on both these topics are in this issue. As always, a reminder that fundraising for the Legion Poppy Appeal is a year round activity and all contributions large or small are always welcome. There are still two vacant positions on your Branch Committee. If you are interested in helping to run the Branch please contact Branch Secretary John Swann by email:*

*[ysservices.secretary@rbl.community](mailto:ysservices.secretary@rbl.community)*

*Regards Jim McDermott, Branch Chairman*

A warm welcome  
to new Branch member  
**Tony Lockyer**

**Membership  
currently stands at  
442**

The Legion National Conference is scheduled to take place in London on 13-15 May 2022. The Branch is represented this year by **Karen Brutnell** who is our Branch Community Support representative.

## Recruiting New Members

Clearly, to keep our Branch thriving and as active as a National Branch can be, we need to maintain and, whenever possible, increase our membership. It seems that, generally, people tend to think about joining the Legion when they reach, or are near to reaching, the end of their military service. Not ignoring the fact, of course, that you do not need to have served in the armed forces to join. As we are a National and not a local Branch, we do not have the benefit of a physical presence and, whilst our website and Facebook page serve as useful 'shop windows' to what we do, our main recruiting tool is very much 'word-of-mouth'. So when you meet up with friends with whom you served in defence of the realm, please do take the opportunity to sell the Legion and the Branch and encourage non-members to join the clan. We are in the process of creating a 'business card' to make the 'sell' easier with all the information needed on one double sided card and these will be made available to anyone interested in due course. More on this in next month's Newsletter.

Contributions to the 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](mailto:jim.mcdermott77@ntlworld.com)

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

## A Plea for Pics

A request from a serving Royal Signals NCO, who was among the smartly turned out military party from Chicksands who paraded at Old Woodhouse on Remembrance Sunday in November 2021. He is seeking photographs from the event in particular of the lads on parade. If anyone took any photos which they are able and willing to share please send them, in digital format, to the Newsletter editor and he will send them on. Many thanks in advance. Send to: [jim.mcdermott77@ntlworld.com](mailto:jim.mcdermott77@ntlworld.com)



## Summer Gathering 2022.

The Branch Summer Gathering for 2022 will be centered around the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire. An act of remembrance will take place at the Y Services Memorial on **Saturday 23 July 2022** followed by an opportunity to explore the rest of the NMA park and a meet up for an informal lunch and socialising in the main NMA restaurant. No booking needed just turn up and meet up at the Y Services Memorial then treat yourself to an NMA lunch afterwards.

### Outline Programme:

**Fri 22nd - 1600 - Committee meeting at the Shoulder of Mutton pub.**  
**Evening - Skittles match and possible BBQ.**  
**Sat 23rd - 1100 - Meet at Y Services Memorial. Free time at NMA**  
**1300 - Meet up for lunch in the NMA Cafe.**  
**Evening - Group dinner at the Shoulder of Mutton pub.**  
**Sun 24th Depart.**



Pub location:  
Yoxall Road  
Hamstall Ridware, WS15 3RZ

A Branch committee meeting will take place on the Friday afternoon in the Shoulder of Mutton and this will be followed by what should be a pleasant Summer's evening in the pub's extensive garden. Most of the pub's available accommodation is now booked up, but one two bed-roomed (both en-suite) cottage remains vacant. To book it please contact the Shoulder of Mutton directly on 01908562183. Going direct to the pub, rather than through a booking website, will reduce your bed and breakfast fee by 10%. Please quote Royal British Legion when booking.

If you would like to join in the evening sessions at the pub please email Dennis Weir: [yservices.vicechairman@rbl.community](mailto:yservices.vicechairman@rbl.community)

## Y Services Memorial at the NMA

As members will know a great deal of time and energy in 2021 went into getting the Y Services Memorial at the NMA refurbished and with a smart new sign. The surface of the new pathway means it will not require frequent weeding and maintenance of the complete site is now undertaken by NMA's staff under contract from the Branch. The FOYSM (Friends of the Y Services Memorial) scheme which was established to finance the maintenance of the site has, through the generosity of members, proved very successful and we have sufficient funds pledged annually to ensure the plot is kept in pristine condition year-round. If you visit the NMA, please do take a moment to call in on the Y Services Memorial, perhaps take a photo and let the editor of this Newsletter know how the site is looking. A chance to get your face in this prestigious journal!



## Heads Up - Legion Elections

Legion Elections for Chairman, Vice Chairman and Three Trustees will take place during March 2022. Our own Branch Nominations made at the 2021 Branch AGM have both made the shortlist:

Branch nomination for Legion Vice Chairman  
David Whimpenny

Branch Nomination for Board of Trustees  
Jim McDermott

Voting will take place at a Branch meeting online via Zoom in March 2022 and details will be notified to all members in due course.



Here is our oft repeated message about a really easy way to contribute funds to the Poppy Appeal. We are registered as RBL Y Services (Garats HaY) Branch with #easyfundraising, which means over 6,000 shops and sites will now donate to us for FREE every time you use #easyfundraising to shop with them.

See how much we have raised since we started raising funds via easyfundraising



### RBL Y Services (Garats HaY) Branch

#### Donations

Donations Total  
**£2,197.49**

Last 30 Days  
**£26.36**

#### Supporters

Supporters Total  
**92**

These donations will help SO MUCH, so please sign up to support us – it's completely FREE and doesn't take long.

Use this link to get started:

[https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/rblyservices/?utm\\_campaign=raise-more&utm\\_source=social&utm\\_medium=facebook&utm\\_content=gs-f1](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/rblyservices/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_source=social&utm_medium=facebook&utm_content=gs-f1)

**ENDS**