



National Conference 2022

There's still time to register and attend, in person or online. See page 3



Source: RBL

Annual Conference 2022 will be held in-person and virtually on Friday 13th May until Sunday 15th May, in The Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, Broad Sanctuary, Westminster, London, SW1P 3EE.

In this issue:

Front Page - National Conference / RIP Derek Buxton & Mary Fry

2. Obituary / Branch Standard out and about

3. Chairman's message / National Conference

4. Legion Elections / Summer Gathering

5. FOYSM / Easyfundraising

6. A poem from Branch bard John Berry



**It is with great sadness
that we report the death
of Branch Member
The Reverend Derek Buxton
(former Padre Comms & Sy Gp UK)
May he rest in peace.**



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

Obituary

Derek Major Buxton (RIP)

The Reverend Derek Major Buxton passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his wife and children on March 17 2022 in the evening. Much loved and respected, he spent his early years at Wood Leasow farm in Leigh before ordination in the Church of England. His work included University Assistant Chaplain at St Nicholas, Precentor at Leicester Cathedral, Rector of St. Deny's Ibstock, St. John the Baptist Heather, Canon at Woodhouse Eaves and Old Woodhouse, Regional Padre to the Air Training Corps and Padre to the Comms and Security Group UK at Garats Hay. A Thanksgiving Service to celebrate Derek's life and ministry will be held at St Paul's Woodhouse Eaves at 2pm on Saturday 2nd April.

(Our Branch Standard will be on parade).



Branch Standard on Parade

With the easing of Covid restrictions generally, Branch Standard Bearer Dave Lawrence has been able to give the Branch Standard an airing and was on parade as follows during the month:

01 Mar 22 - Funeral of Mary Fry (ex. Int Corps), Leicester.

24 Mar 22 - Inter-denominational service of thanksgiving, St Mary's Church, Warwick.

31 Mar 22 - Funeral of Branch member The Rev. Canon Derek Buxton, Leigh, Staffs.

Future events:

The Branch Standard will be on parade at the Standard Laying-up/Dedication ceremony for the RBL Hinkley Branch on Sunday 03 April 2022 at St Mary's Church, Hinkley, Leics.



The funeral of Branch member Mary Fry (ex. Int Corps) took place in Leicester on 01 March 2022.

Branch News

Branch Chairman's Message.

For the Branch, March has been only a little less quiet than February. Dave Lawrence has dusted off the Branch Standard and added even more gloss to his best shoes for several excursions.

Events in Ukraine have swept Covid from the media headlines and it is very interesting to observe how Ivan is performing.

It is always sad when members die and as a Branch we offer condolences to the family of the deceased by sending a Branch condolence card, plus, of course an offer of help if needed. At the request of the family, the Branch Standard can be paraded at funerals and we believe that families gain some comfort from their loved one's service being recognised.

A reminder on page 4 about our Summer Gathering, this year at the NMA; a great opportunity to catch up with old friends.

Regards

Jim McDermott, Branch Chairman

National Conference 2022

The RBL 2022 Annual Conference will take place in Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in Westminster, London on 13 - 15 May.

As a Branch we already have a registered delegate, Karen Brutnell, who will be able to vote at the conference and take part in the debates.

However, any member can still register as a visitor (in person in London or virtually, online) and attend some or all of the sessions. More details and a visitor registration form online at

<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/things-to-do/membership/our-members/annual-conference>

Complete the visitor's form to guarantee your place at our Annual Conference. Registration closes on Friday 8 April at PM

Note from the Editor:

We don't usually publish obituaries but did so in this month's issue for the late Rev Buxton because I found it already published online. However, we can publish memories that members might want to share. So, if and when a member dies please feel free to pen an item for submission along the lines of: "My Memories of [Name (RIP)] and send to the editor by email: jim.mcdermott77@ntlworld.com

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

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

Legion Elections 2022

The Board of Trustees is ultimately responsible for governing the Royal British Legion (RBL) and ensuring that it is effectively run. All Trustees are equally responsible in law for the Board's actions and decisions. Therefore, Trustees have key leadership roles. A new National Chairman, National Vice-Chairman and three Trustees are to be elected.

The RBL began the process of drawing up a shortlist of candidates back in November 2021. Candidates for the posts of Legion Chairman, Vice Chairman and those to serve as Trustees were notified in early March. Election packs have now been distributed to qualifying Branches.

The closing date for the return of ballot papers from branches is 14 April 22 and members who have been successful in the elections will take up their new roles immediately following the close of Legion Conference 2022 in May.

Those elected will serve a three-year term from May 2022. Elected Trustees may serve no more than three full and one partial term.

We held a General Branch meeting, via Zoom, on 29 March 2021 to cast our votes.

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

Friends of the Y Services Memorial (FOYSM)

An update. The FOYSM fund, to pay for the annual upkeep of the Y Services Memorial and Gardens at the NMA, has recently received a tremendous and very generous boost. The Board of the Intelligence Corps Association (ICA) has donated £500 to the fund and has declared that it is prepared to make an annual contribution to the fund (amount not yet specified). With the many individual donations from members and non-members already pledged we are confident that this substantial overhead can be met. However, with ever rising costs we need to future proof the fund and, to this end, we will also be seeking support from two other Y Services related organisations, the Royal Signals Association and the WRAC Association. To repeat the message from previous Newsletters, if you do visit the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) please do seek out the Y Services Memorial and Garden and take a moment to remember those who have gone before. *Further updates in due course.*



The National Memorial Arboretum



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.

To date we have 92 members participating in the scheme, making regular 'micro' donations - which, since we became involved with easyfundraising, has raised £2209.63 for the Poppy Appeal. This month alone we have raised £11.60 with the only effort required being a couple of additional clicks on your keyboard.

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

Poetry Corner



Slava Ukraini!

*(Adapted from Jane Borthwick's words to the hymn "Be Still My Soul"
and sung to the tune of Finlandia by Sibelius)*

Be brave, Ukraine! The world is on your side.
Bear with great courage all the grief and pain.
Trust in the West to succour and provide
for those who leave and those who still remain.
Chin up, Ukraine! You're blessed with loyal friends
who will support you 'til this torment ends.

Have faith, Ukraine! Those friends will undertake
to bring a future better than your past.
Don't let your brave heart or your spirit break.
All is not lost.....things will improve at last.
Plucky Ukraine! No bombs or tanks can still
your voice, your hopes for freedom.....or your will!

Gallant Ukraine! When wives and kids depart
and lonely hours bring bitterness and tears
let's hope our voices might yet play a part
in trying to soothe the anguish and the fears.
Fearless Ukraine! When missiles light your skies
and airwaves from your neighbours churn out lies!

Stout heart Ukraine! Though under vile attack
you're in no doubt, you'll wrest your freedom back!
And we must watch, with impotence and grief
for signs that your brave nation finds relief.

***Slava Ukraine! With that proud flag unfurled
you fly a beacon for the whole free world!**

Jobe March 2022

***Slava means "Glory"**