



# Branch Summer Gathering 2022

Story: pages 2 & 3

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Opportunity to be part of the Legion Contingent at the Annual Cenotaph Ceremony. See page 4.



## SUMMER GATHERING 2022 (SG22)

The much-heralded Branch Summer Gathering 2022 (SG22) took place Friday to Sunday 22-24 July 2022. The Branch Committee held their meeting on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> in the quaint village of Hamstell Ridware close to the "Shoulder of Mutton pub" where most of those attending stayed.



The Branch Committee in thoughtful mood, meeting at Hamstell Ridware



A scheduled skittles match was cancelled due to rain but this did not dampen spirits and we were treated to an excellent barbeque, cooked in the pub garden and devoured in the pub. The evening was spent discussing the relative merits of different communications equipment, the state of the economy and other weighty subjects, plus of course the usual banter, poor jokes and a great deal of noise.



Dave Lawrence awaits Dennis Weir's word of command to march on the Standard



Socializing at the Shoulder of Mutton pub



Farmer Vaughan and Dennis Weir inspect the memorial stone and plaque



The address



A selection of pics from Branch Summer Gathering 2022 (SG22)\_



Touring the NMA



## SUMMER GATHERING 2022 (SG22) ...continued



Branch Chairman, Jim McDermott in conversation with WWII Beaumanor veteran Joyce Long

Saturday evening was devoted to an excellent dinner at the Shoulder of Mutton pub with continued jollity until late. Branch Vice Chairman, Dennis Weir, arranged a fundraising raffle with prizes donated by those present. The raffle was carefully contrived to ensure that every one (or couple) went away with a prize. Prizes included a bottle of excellent port and a packet of Ferrero Rocher which were quickly opened for testing and tasting. Members retired to the well-stocked bar for further in-depth discussions. Finally, Sunday dawned and members departed their separate ways after a great breakfast. This was an excellent weekend, enjoyed by all, and the committee plans to repeat the event in 2023.

On Saturday morning a tremendous turnout of 30 members assembled at the Y Services Memorial Plot and Garden at the NMA where a short service of remembrance was held. Dress was casual except for Branch Standard Bearer Dave Lawrence who appeared, as always, smartly turned out wearing his best rig (see front cover). After a welcome from the Branch Chairman a list of Y Service personnel killed in WWII and in more recent conflicts was read out. We were restricted with respect to playing music but managed Last Post and Reveille on an iPhone. The Exhortation was delivered by Branch President, Col (Retd) Eric Sambell who also closed the ceremony by reciting the Kohima Epitaph. During the two minutes silence Farmer Vaughan laid a RBL wreath on the Y Services Memorial. Branch chairman Jim McDermott gave a short address and Branch Secretary John Swann read the Y Services prayer. This was without doubt quite a moving event in the memorial garden and a highlight of the weekend. Members then dispersed for lunch and to explore the NMA's many monuments and gardens.



Last Post sounds. Farmer Vaughan lays the wreath and the Branch Standard is dipped





### FOYSM UPDATE - Update

As members will know, the cost of the upkeep of the Y Services Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) is paid from a fund the Branch established in 2021. Contributors to the fund which is called "Friends of the Y Services Memorial" (FOYSM) make regular monthly payments along with some annual payments by other individuals and a generous lump sum from the Intelligence Corps Association. To ensure that we can maintain the fund and pay the annual bill we have recently approached several associations related in some way to Y Services. To date the Royal Naval Association and the Royal Signals Association (RSA) have both indicated that they are unable to help. The RSA has, however, offered to publicise the FOYSM fund to the Corps in appropriate media and we are in the process of creating suitable promotional material for this purpose. Responses are awaited from the WRAC Association and the Royal Air Force Association.

Any members visiting the NMA and who look in on the Y Services Memorial and Garden would be doing a great service if they would take a pic and upload a comment on the condition and appearance of the site on the Branch Facebook page – Please! Our Facebook group is called "RBL Y Services" and here is a direct link: [RBL "Y" Services | Facebook](#)

We think it would be useful to have a visitors' book on site and how such a book can be safely made available on the plot is being investigated.

### CENOTAPH CEREMONY

The National Service of Remembrance will be held at the Cenotaph on Whitehall in London on Sunday 13 November 2022. The Royal British Legion organises the annual Veteran March Past that passes the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday for 10,000 British and Commonwealth former military and civilian Service personnel. Eligibility. Participants must meet at least one of the following eligibility criteria:

- Ex-service Military and Civilian men and women from the UK and the Commonwealth that served the Crown.
- Wives, husbands or civil partners of those who died in service in Her Majesty's Armed Forces.
- A carer of a veteran requiring wheelchair assistance.

The carer accompanying the veteran must be included within the capacity. Therefore, where appropriate, the option of one veteran assisting another for the duration of the event should be considered. Members of The Royal British Legion who meet the eligibility criteria can apply to be part of the Legion contingent but are encouraged to march with their relevant Corps, Regimental or Service Association. We will continue to monitor government advice with respect to Covid-19 for mass gatherings to ensure the health and safety of our participants, which remains our priority, and update accordingly. Any updates will be communicated via the main RBL website and membership communication channels. If any Branch member would like to be part of the RBL contingent then please email the [yservices.secretary@rbl.community](mailto:yservices.secretary@rbl.community) for an application form and privacy policy document. Completed application forms must be returned to the Branch Secretary by no later than 19 August.



## Branch Chairman's Message.

### Dear Branch Members,

*The highlight of the month has been the Summer Gathering (SG22). For many years we have held the event at different locations around the country with mixed success in terms of numbers attending. For 2023 we again plan to hold the event using much the same template: meet up and stay in a local pub, a remembrance service at the NMA and a dinner followed by socializing. Details in early 2023. We still have a couple of empty seats on the committee and all members are asked to consider giving up not a lot of time to help run the Branch (more on this on page 6. It's that time of the year to start thinking about and planning for Remembrance weekend, details elsewhere in this issue about the Festival of Remembrance and the march past the Cenotaph.*

*Finally, a word of thanks from me first to the Branch Committee for helping make SG22 such a success and thank you, too, to the several Branch members who graced the Y Services Memorial with their presence at the NMA for the remembrance service.*

### Regards

*Jim McDermott, Branch Chairman*

**Membership  
currently stands at  
440**

### MEMBERSHIP RECRUITING

As a National Branch with members scattered far and wide and no fixed geographical 'home' it is not possible to run local recruiting drives. We very much rely on Branch members using a word-of-mouth approach to encourage their former Y service colleagues to consider joining our Branch. As notified in previous issues we have distilled the essential info on how to join the Branch onto a two sided card (business card size) to make the process really easy. To secure your supply of cards and help with recruiting new members please contact Branch Chairman Jim McDermott by email on [yservices.chairman@rbl.community](mailto:yservices.chairman@rbl.community)

### BRANCH NEWSLETTER PERFORMANCE.

The Branch Newsletter goes to all members with an email address (almost everyone).

The June Newsletter was dispatched on 1 July 2022 and was opened and read almost immediately by 287 members.

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.

## VACANCIES ON THE BRANCH COMMITTEE

There are two vacancies on the Branch committee. Qualifications: be a paid-up Branch member; possess a keenness to help the Branch move forward and have an abundance of new ideas (or some) for recruiting and fundraising. The Branch Committee meets four times a year (including once via Zoom) and maintains contact otherwise mainly via email. If you are interested in joining the committee or want to find out more, please contact Branch Secretary John Swann by email on: [yservices.secretary@rbl.community](mailto:yservices.secretary@rbl.community)

## FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE 2022

Every year the Royal British Legion hosts the annual Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall. The Festival is a commemorative event dedicated to all those from Britain and the Commonwealth who have served and sacrificed. This year's Festival will take place on Saturday 12 November 2022 with performances at 2pm and 7pm.

### Membership ticketing

All RBL members wishing to buy a ticket should use the online ticket portal.

The link to the portal at: [Festival of Remembrance | Programme | Royal British Legion](#) to purchase tickets will go live on Tuesday 2nd August at 10am.

### Evening performance

Tickets go on sale on 2 August

RBL members can purchase up to 2 tickets

### Afternoon performance

Tickets go on sale on 9 August (at least one week prior to them becoming available to the public)

RBL members can purchase up to 4 tickets



## Latest Stats

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

**£2,369.41**

Last 30 Days

**£9.15**

#### Supporters

Supporters Total

**94**

(As at 300722)

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

Cut and paste this link to get started: [shorturl.at/EGY57](https://shorturl.at/EGY57)



## ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2022 – RESULTS OF MOTIONS

Legion Head Office, Haig House, recently published the results of voting on motions at annual conference 2022. The motions and results are listed below. Motion 5 was not carried and is not included. The full document with Trustee responses will be made available on the Branch website.

### **Motion 1** (Staple Hill and District Branch, Cheltenham Branch)

This Branch requests that the Board of Trustees and Director of Welfare provide clarification on current arrangements for Welfare breaks for beneficiaries.

Motion Carried

### **Motion 2** (Portugal and Atlantic Islands Branch, Antwerp Branch)

That Honorary Membership of the Royal British Legion be automatically granted to any member attaining their Centenary

Motion Carried

### **Motion 3** (Paris Branch, Somme Branch)

This Conference asks the Board of Trustees to allow proxy voting for Branches at AGMs

Motion Carried

### **Motion 4** (Derbyshire – Chesterfield Branch, Chapel-en-le-Frith Branch)

This Branch requests that, as a matter of priority, the County Conference passes this motion to the Board of Trustees for action. To implement the use of Bank debit cards, if required, by Branches who are finding difficulty in paying bills by cheque.

Motion Carried



### **Motion 6** (Cheltenham & District Branch, Gloucester City Branch)

This Conference challenges the current policy of Head Office Finance Department in relation to its actual and planned disbursements from Area Trust Funds (ATFs) and the lack of visibility of such transactions, particularly relating to the South West Midlands (SW Mids) ATF. Finance Department should publish to branches each May, clear details of the annual income and expenditure from the relevant ATFs.

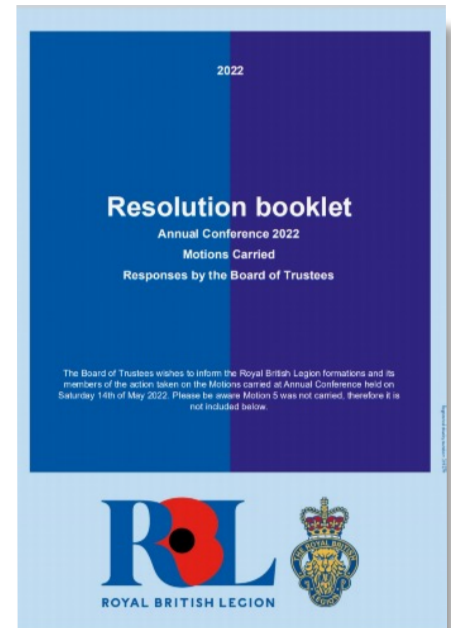
Motion Carried

### **Motion 7** (Cheltenham & District Branch, Staple Hill Branch)

This Conference strongly urges the Board of Trustees to acknowledge the concerns of membership with the process, protocols and management adopted for this round of Elections for National Officers and Trustees. The Board is strongly encouraged to engage with, and seek recommendations from, the Membership Council, on behalf of the wider membership, and to review and revise the Election process into clear and

### **Motion 8** (Wycombe Marsh Branch, Buckinghamshire County)

This Conference requests the Introduction of a policy that the Board of Trustees and the Membership Council meetings be held on Saturdays and Sundays thus enabling members that have full time employment to stand for election and play a full part in these formations.



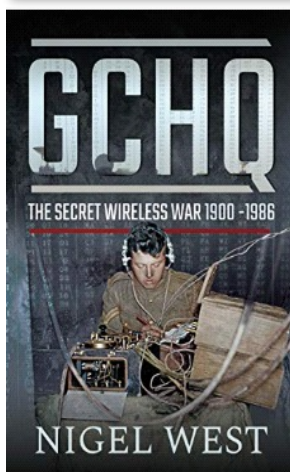
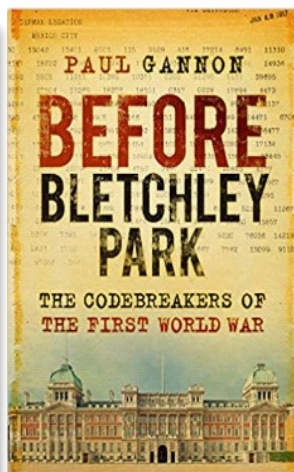
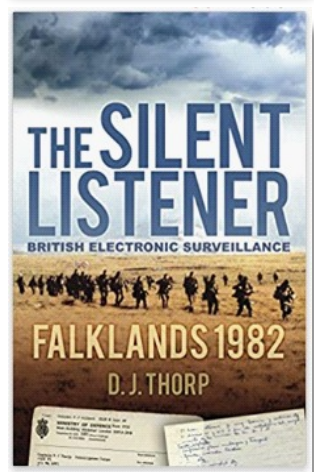
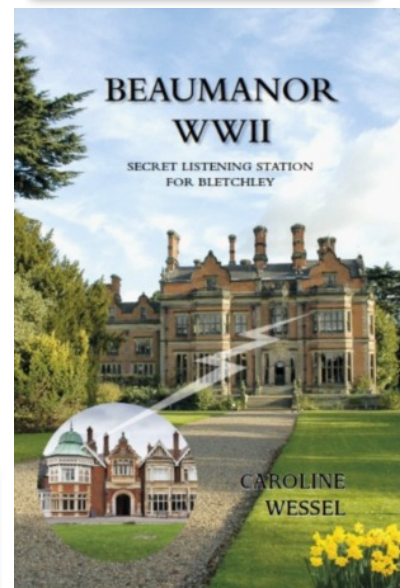
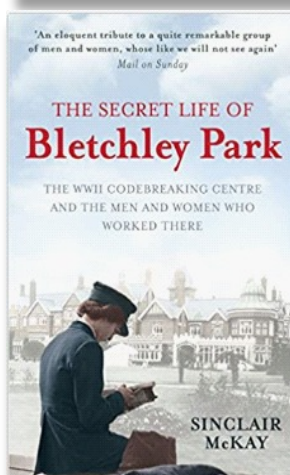
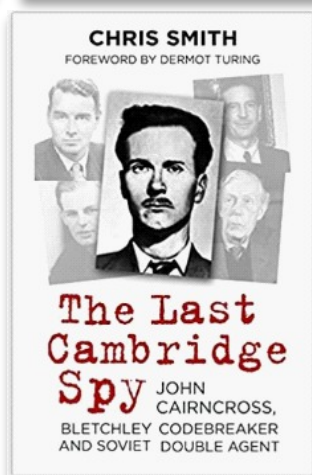
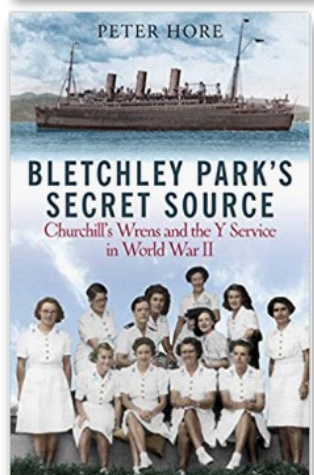
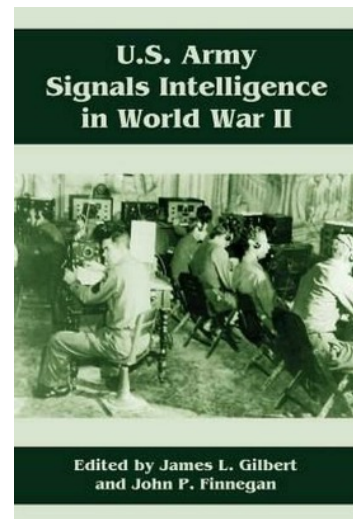
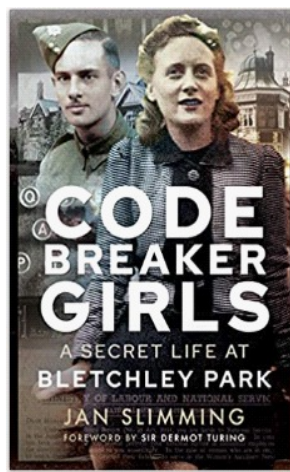
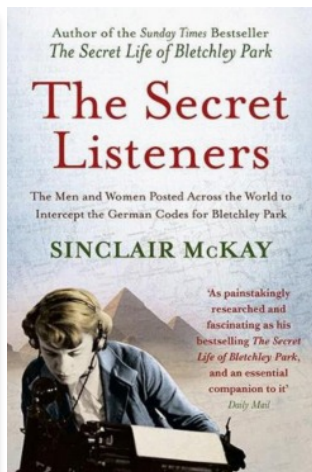
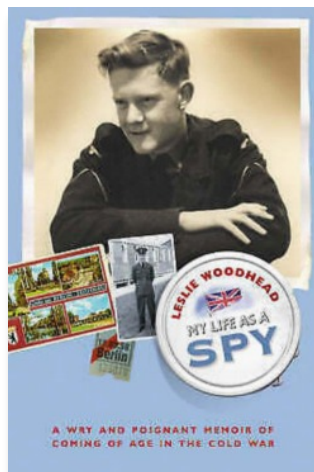
**Find the Branch Website  
online at**

<https://garatshay.org.uk/>



## SIGINT IN PRINT

Given the nature of the work many of us did it is surprising how many books have been published on the topic. Here is a very small selection. To the right below, is the planned front cover of a soon to be published new book by Caroline Wessel 'Beaumanor WWII'



Plans are in hand for Caroline to talk about and have copies of her book available for sale after our Branch AGM in Loughborough in November 2022