



**The Y Services Memorial and Garden  
looking pristine on Armed Forces Day 25 June 2022**

**In this issue.**

**Cover: Y Services Memorial - looking good**

**2. SG22 / Remembrance 2022 / Nat Conference 2022**

**3. Chairman's message / Branch News**

**4. FOYSM update / Standards on Parade**

**5. Recruiting / Easyfundraising**

**6. A bit of history**



## SUMMER GATHERING 2022 (SG22)

A reminder that our Branch Summer Gathering this year, centred on the Shoulder of Mutton pub at Hamstall Ridware, will take place over the weekend 22/23 July 2022. The lists for the Friday evening BBQ and the Saturday evening dinner are now closed. However, any members who wish to attend the gathering and remembrance event at the National Memorial Arboretum from 1030 onwards on Saturday 23rd July will be more than welcome. For the remembrance event, dress is casual except for Dave Lawrence, our Branch Standard Bearer who will be in best rig. We have planned a short ceremony, starting at 1100hrs, followed by an opportunity to explore the NMA's many monuments and exhibits then lunch at your leisure in the NMA's restaurant. For those who have already signed up for the Saturday evening dinner - a menu will be emailed to you in the near future. Please make your choices and return them by email to [dennis.weir1@ntlworld.com](mailto:dennis.weir1@ntlworld.com)

## REMEMBRANCE WEEKEND

The social venue for our gathering at Remembrance Weekend 11/12 November 22 will be the Quorn Grange Hotel. 01509 412167. The original plan was to have a private dinner on the Saturday night in a separate room in the hotel, but we have been informed that this might not be possible. All those of us who are booked into the hotel for the weekend will of course be able to eat there but we may have to be seated in smaller groups. The thing we need to know by the end of August is who is coming and who would like to dine with the group on the Saturday evening. Once we know that, we will see how best we can all be seated. Please also email: [dennis.weir1@ntlworld.com](mailto:dennis.weir1@ntlworld.com) if you are coming and whether you would prefer to eat early (1830) or a little later (2000)

## NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2022

Our Branch Community Support committee member, Karen Brutnell, represented the Branch at this year's National Conference which was held in London. Karen attended virtually. Here is her interim report:

There were 192 delegates attending in person and 62 on line. I voted as requested by the branch committee however, the voting system kept freezing which I reported. Motion 5 (RBL membership cards to be card)not plastic) was a bit controversial and perhaps they should have voided the motion. The upshot was that people didn't want paper-based membership cards **or** plastic ones, other than for those without electronic devices. It was suggested a move to something like supermarket loyalty cards would be useful.

The agenda was jiggled around a bit due to a late motion and paper work hadn't been shared in advance for folk to think about. There was also some hogging of the mike by one individual. More details on all the other motions when they are formally published.

## Branch Chairman's Message.

### Chairman's Message,

I attended Armed Forces Day at the NMA on Saturday 25 June 2022 and took the opportunity to see how the Y Services Memorial and Garden are being maintained. I am pleased to say the plot is in good order, the hedges and trees have been neatly trimmed and the grass has begun to recover following extensive building works to the pathway. There is a little weed growth on the edge of the path but with clear indications that these unwanted intrusions have been treated with weed-killer. (See pic on front cover)

An item on Facebook drew attention to the fact that there is no WRAC badge on the Y Services memorial plaque. However, as readers of this newsletter will know, whilst we are unable to make any changes to the original memorial plaque we made sure that an image of the WRAC hat badge was included on the new entrance sign installed fairly recently.

In other news... Well little to add, it's a quiet period, except that we are looking forward to our Summer Gathering 22 details of which appear elsewhere in this newsletter.

Regards

*Jim McDermott, Branch Chairman*



A warm welcome  
to new  
Branch member

**Billy Corner\***

**Membership  
currently stands at  
439**

Our latest "joiner" is Billy Corner (better known as Billy Wizz) who has become a Multi Member; he also belongs to the Sawtry (Huntingdon) Branch, where he is both Branch Secretary and Standard Bearer.

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.

## FOYSM UPDATE

In 2021 The National Memorial Arboretum required all memorial plot holders to take on full responsibility for the maintenance of plots. We opted for an arrangement whereby NMA staff look after the Y Service plot for payment annually of around £1300. Our Friends of the Y Services Memorial (FOYSM) scheme generates an income for this overhead where members make a small monthly payment to a ring-fenced account. These small amounts, as little as £3.00 (some pay more) soon add up and along with some annual pledges including a generous £500 from the Intelligence Corps Association (ICA) we have so far been able to cover the cost of this maintenance. Encouraged by the ICA donation we have now made approaches for financial support for the plot to the Royal Naval Association, the Royal Signals Association, the WRAC Association and the Royal Air Force Association. Responses from these approaches, which we hope will be successful, will be reported in future issues. If you have not already signed up to the FOYSM scheme and wish to make a small monthly contribution, please contact Branch Treasurer, Lyn Oldfield for details by email on [yservices.treasurer@rbl.community](mailto:yservices.treasurer@rbl.community)



Our Branch Standard was out and about just once during the month attending the Henley in Arden Armed Forces Day event on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2022

## Recruiting New Members



## RECRUITING

There was promising interest in the 'recruitment cards' promoted in the May issue and several sets of cards have been despatched. If you would like some cards to help attract more members to our Branch from within your own circle of relatives and friends please email:

[yservices.chairman@rbl.community](mailto:yservices.chairman@rbl.community)



The month of May proved very successful with £110.87 raised.

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

**£2,359.08**

#### Supporters

Supporters Total

**93**

(As at 300622)

The month of Fantastic effort, thanks to all concerned

Last 30 Days

**£110.87**

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)

## A BIT OF HISTORY

No matter which branch of the armed forces you served with at some point you will have experienced (or have it yet to come) the 'Transition to civilian life' or more usually 'resettlement.' Following the end of World War Two it was simply 'demob.' (for demobilisation). Over the years those leaving the armed forces have been given help and advice to varying degrees and some left well prepared others not so. In the army it was not unusual for the job of resettlement to be given to a passed over major who also had responsibilities for the fencing club, families, the basketball team, regimental dustbins and fire precautions. Advice took the form mostly, of the departing soldier being handed several leaflets and being wished good luck. More recently transition to civilian life has been contracted out to a civilian firm: The Career Transition Partnership (CTP). CTP is a partnering agreement between the Ministry of Defence and Right Management and provides resettlement services for those leaving the Royal Navy, Army, Royal Air Force and Royal Marines and also acts as an intermediary for employers wishing to hire Service leavers.

Leaving the Armed Forces can, in some respects, be like starting again from scratch. For those who have completed 22 or more years having joined up at 18, they are too old to start as an apprentice but too young to retire. The CTP understands how complicated creating a new life can be, and provides advice on all aspects of civilian life including; approaching the job market; how to claim benefits; housing; health and education; pensions and interviewing skills. Advice, guidance and support are available from the CTP two years before discharge until two years after leaving Service, if the individual is eligible in accordance with current policy.

Straight after World War Two, servicemen and women were demobbed in order according to age, length of service and whether or not they were married or single and returning to an occupation in a trade which would contribute to the reconstruction of the country's infrastructure. How much help did these heroes get to 'resettle'?

Here's an extract from a late 1940s pamphlet:

### 1 *RELEASE LEAVE AND YOUR UNIFORM*

While you are on release leave your position is just the same as if you were on leave from your unit, except that you may take up civilian employment straight away and need not wait until the end of your leave, and that for health and pensions insurance purposes you are treated as a civilian from the date your leave begins. If you want reinstatement with your old employer you must apply promptly.

You are being allowed to take away with you certain articles of uniform. You may wear uniform up to the date of the termination of your release leave unless you are going abroad. Officers wishing to wear it after that date for some special occasion or reason should apply in writing to the War Office (A.G.4c.) giving particulars. These articles of uniform divested of all badges may be dyed, or otherwise altered so as to be of use to you in civilian life. Officers should, however, bear in mind that in the event of their being recalled to the Service, they will not be eligible for another outfit allowance.

Of course, times have changed and you see very few people out and about wearing dyed uniforms!

ENDS