



REMEMBRANCE 2022



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**2023
BRANCH
WALL
CALENDAR
NOW ON
SALE
See page 3**



AGM 2022 and a Branch Committee Reshuffle

The Branch AGM 2022 was held at the Greenfields Sports Centre in Loughborough on 12 November 2022 with 26 members in attendance. We were pleased to welcome Rachel Wilkins, our Membership Services Officer (MSO), who was there to observe and meet members.

Some key points from the AGM:

Branch subs and joining fees to remain unchanged. The Summer Gathering 2023 will again be centred in or near the NMA (more details in due course). We said goodbye to Lyn Oldfield who is standing down from the post of Branch Treasurer after many years looking after the books. Lyn was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation and a gift of book tokens from the Committee. Our new Treasurer is former Committee Secretary John Swann. John was thanked for his sterling work for the Branch and has already completed the Legion's training course for Branch Treasurers. John is succeeded as Secretary by Chris Lowish who was co-opted onto the committee at the Branch Committee meeting during the Summer Gathering In July and has been shadowing John since then. Chris, who served in the Intelligence Corps for 42 years, has recently retired from the Army. He is a veteran of 13 and 14 Sigs, Digby, MOD and PJHQ to name but a few.

There are still two vacant places on the committee. If you feel you could contribute to the working of the Branch or perhaps bring in some new ideas then please do get in touch via email to the Branch Secretary on: yserVICES.secretary@rbl.community



Report on Remembrance Sunday event

Our Branch Remembrance Parade took place at St Mary in the Elms Church in Woodhouse with a good turnout of members, friends, staff from MOD Garats Hay and serving soldiers from Chicksands. The service and parade were followed by tea and biscuits in the village hall.

The event was organised by Bob White who has now stood down from that task. Thanks go to Bob for the many years he has devoted to this important role. Those attending will know that two members of the congregation were unwell/suffered an accident during the service but we are pleased to report that both are now fine.

**LIMITED EDITION - BRANCH WALL CALENDAR 2023
NOW ON SALE**

**£5.00 +
£2.00 p&p**



The theme for the Branch 2023 wall calendar is a miscellany of fascinating facts about Sigint related armed forces hats and badges and other stuff.

The Calendar is A4 size and comprises a front cover and (unsurprisingly) 12 pages, one for each month with plenty of space to pencil in your own important dates.

Warning – contains dates!

Orders can be placed by email to:

jim.mcdermott77@ntlworld.com

Orders will be sent by post on receipt of payment via BACS to:

Sort Code: 30-65-85

Account No: 47985060

Reference: Your Name/Calendar

For details of how to pay by cheque please email: jim.mcdermott77@ntlworld.com

If ordering **more** than one calendar, please ask the cost of postage before sending your payment.

Calendars will be despatched in a hard backed manila envelope.

All proceeds to the RBL Poppy Appeal

DAVE LAWRENCE GETS A NEW BASE!

Having made do with a makeshift portable base for several years, designed and manufactured by Branch Chairman Jim McDermott, Branch Standard Bearer Dave Lawrence now has a brand new polished wooden base with a shiny brass tube. The purchase of the base was authorised by the Branch Committee at its meeting in November.

Background.

Quite frequently at events, where our Standard is on parade, it is not always easy to 'park' the Standard. Members may be fascinated to know that a cunning plan was launched some 4 years ago to create a unique piece of equipment to accommodate said Standard (and at the same time not spend any money)! Tests and calculations were made to determine the combined weight of the Standard and pole and the required weight of the base to ensure stability. This led eventually to the development of the:

Heavy Briefcase Style Standard Base Apparatus Mk 1

Dimensions are: W: 44cm, H: 12.5cm, D: 26cm

Colour: Battleship Grey

Material: Solid wood (part of an old railway sleeper)

Weight: Very heavy

The old base has served us well at venues countrywide.



We are happy to report that Dave is delighted with the new base. A new home is being sought for the old one. Offers to the Branch Secretary!

THE 'Y' SERVICES MEMORIAL AT THE NMA

The Y Services Memorial at the NMA commemorates all those from WWII to the present day working in Electronic Warfare Signals Intelligence who have fallen serving their country.

£2000 needs to be raised annually to maintain the site. We cannot use Branch funds for this purpose and have created a separate fund: Friends of the Y Services Memorial (FOYSM). We currently have just 34 members making monthly contributions and 8 donating annually.

Please consider becoming a friend of the Y Services memorial by making a small monthly contribution. You can do this by taking out a Standing Order of just £3.00 a month (or more if you wish). This will help us keep the site in pristine condition.

Please make out your Standing Order payable as follows:

'Garats Hay Royal British Legion Branch'

Sort Code 40-30-24

Account No: 61824007

Amount: £3.00 (or more if you wish)

Reference: FOYSM

This is a business account

When you have set up your SO please let our Treasurer know by email so we can thank you.

Yservices.treasurer@rbl.community



GARATS HAY POST WAR HISTORY – HELP NEEDED

Major Wayne Fielding, the XO at MOD Garats Hay, is trying to collect and collate some history on the Garats Hay site other than what little exists on the internet and the well documented Welbeck years. He is looking in particular for photos of the post war site. If you can help Wayne in any way with his quest, please email him direct on:

Truevillan@hotmail.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.

Chairman's message

Dear Branch Members,

November is always a busy month and this year has been no exception. Our Branch Standard was paraded several times and the Y Services was well represented at the NMA and at Garats Hay during the Remembrance weekend. Our 2022 AGM was well attended and you will find details of a Branch Committee reshuffle elsewhere in this issue. Despite the reshuffle we still have two vacancies on the Branch Committee. If you would like to volunteer and help move the Branch forward please email our Branch Secretary yservices.secretaryl@rbl.community

Kind regards to one and all

*Jim McDermott
Branch Chairman*

BRANCH MEMBERSHIP

We currently have 444 members

Membership Subscription

Please note that if you pay your membership subscription by Debit Card or Credit card then your annual RBL membership will not be renewed automatically. Direct Debit is the much preferred way to pay. Please choose DD when your membership comes up for renewal

Standard on Parade

Branch Standard bearer Dave Lawrence has been busy again with several appearances connected to remembrance. 7 November, on parade at the Field of Remembrance at the NMA.



11 November, Armistice Day Commemoration, again at the NMA in the presence of the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester. This event was featured prominently on National & local TV news with Dave L front and centre.



The Standard was of course also paraded at the Branch AGM on 12 November and during the Remembrance parade the next day at St Mary in the Elms Church in Woodhouse.

SNIPPETS

Legion Membership

During 2020/21 there was a slight increase in overall Legion membership; it is the first time, in many years that the decline in active members has reversed.

Total membership **202,261**, comprising **201,408** full members, **439** youth members and **414** Life members,

Legion gives Help with energy bills

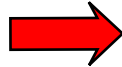
Royal British Legion offers £200 a month energy bill top-up grants for veterans

<https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/news/2022/10/royal-british-legion-armed-forces-grants-energy-bills/>

Garats Hay

The former Welbeck College and, of course, a place where many of our members were trained and worked is now 'MOD GARATS' HAY', part of the UK's Strategic Command.

A permanent tenant is still being sought



NEW LOGO



LATEST STATS)

'Easyfundraising has changed its logo but it's still proving the easiest ever way to raise funds, year round, for the Poppy Appeal

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.

Total raised since we started raising funds via easyfundraising



RBL Y Services (Garats HaY) Branch

Donations

Donations Total

£ **£2, 489.03**

Number of supporters **94**

Raised this month **£12.85**

(As at 281122)

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:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/rblyservices/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_source=social&utm_medium=whatsapp&utm_content=fdrq22-w1