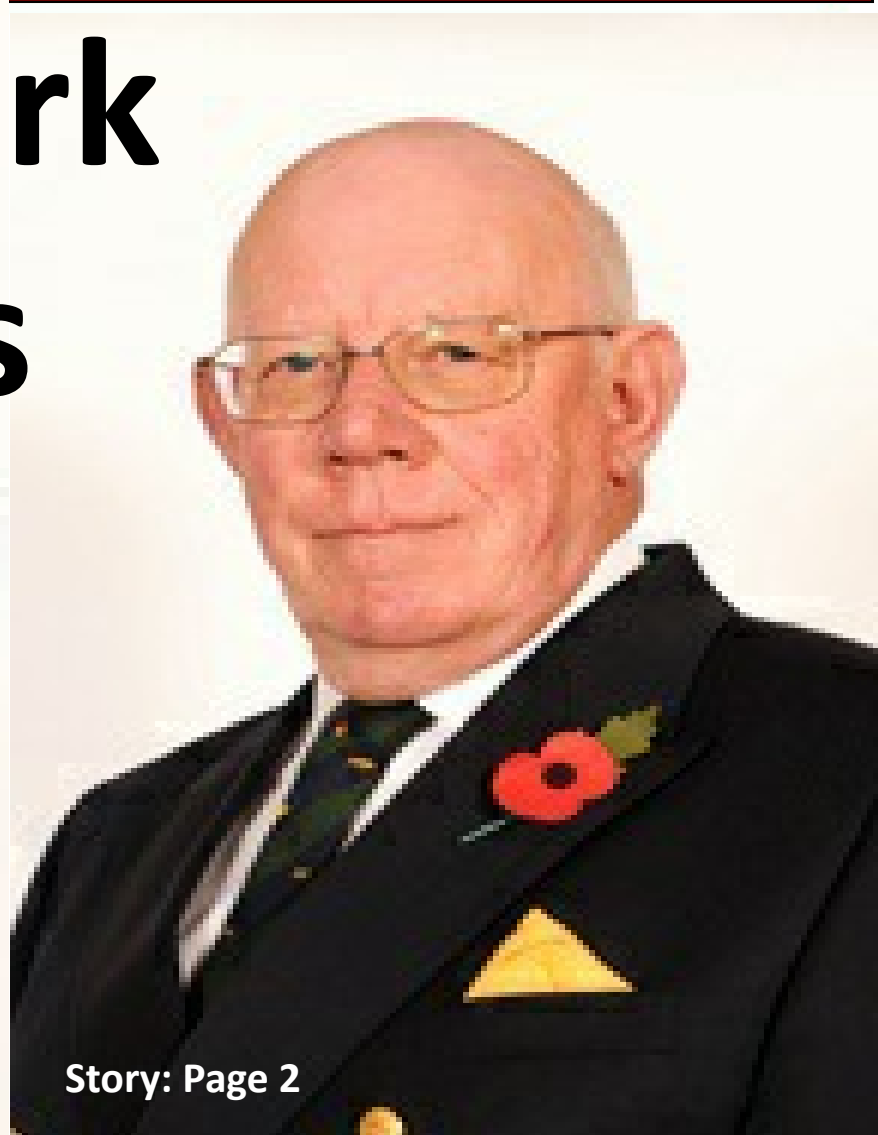


John Clark Receives Legion's Highest Award



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**It is with great sadness that
we report the death of
Branch Member**

Vic Tindall

May he rest in peace

Branch Member John Clark Awarded the Legion Badge 'For Merit'

We are pleased to report that long serving Branch Member (and RBL National Life Member) John Clark, who has already received a Legion Gold badge, was recently presented with the Legion's highest award: 'A Certificate of Appreciation for Exemplary Service'.

The certificate, dated 4th January 2023 bears the signatures of Legion President, Lt General James Bashal, CB., CBE, National Chair, Jason Coward and the Director General Charles Byrne. This award comes with a special Legion Badge bearing the motto "For Merit."



John (aka JC) has filled a multitude of posts within the Legion including Chairman of our own Branch and is now the proud owner of the complete set of Legion awards which are:

Gold Badge

The Legion Gold Badge is awarded to a member who has given at least eight (8) years meritorious and conspicuous service to the objectives of the Legion as defined by the Royal Charter.

National Life Membership

National Life Membership is awarded to a member who has given at least ten (10) years meritorious and conspicuous service to the objectives of the Legion as defined by the Royal Charter, who usually holds the Legion Gold Badge. The recipient retains his full rights as a member without payment of a membership fee for the rest of his natural life. When National Life Membership is approved, a framed certificate is sent to the Membership Support Officer for issue by a Membership Council member or Trustee at a suitable occasion, together with a National Life membership card and badge.

The National Certificate of Appreciation

The National Certificate of Appreciation is the highest honour the Legion can bestow on a member. It is awarded to a member who has made a conspicuous contribution to the Legion at any level for a period of at least twelve (12) years.

Well done John.

IN REMEMBRANCE

We received notification recently from Mags Berry (wife of John) that her cousin Gordon Goswell, has died. Although not a Branch member, Gordon Goswell, was a Garats Hay trained national service spec op, who served with 12 Wireless Squadron, near Graz with British Troops Austria in the early 1950s, along with people like Mike Dawkins and Rex Everson. To remember his Sigint service, a Branch condolence card was sent to Gordon's family



Dear Members,

*We start the year with the great news that Branch member John Clark has been awarded the Legion's highest award for his sterling work over many years in just about every area of RBL activity. A reminder that this newsletter is not a formal diary or official document but simply a means by which your Branch committee can keep in regular contact with updates and snippets of news and items of interest. Our Branch numbers have dropped slightly and we will be making a concerted effort in 2023 to increase our Branch membership total; we know there are hundreds, if not thousands, of Y Service related folk out there and your help in recruiting more members would be greatly appreciated. Please point anyone interested in joining the Legion to our Branch website: [Y Services | Garats HaY](#) then to page down to the **JOIN NOW** button. Finally we are saddened to hear of the death of Branch member Vic Tindall who died in December two weeks short of his hundredth birthday. Otherwise, all quiet on the Branch activity front which is not unusual for January.*

Stay warm and best wishes.
Jim McDermott Branch Chairman



National Branches District(NBD)

Annual Conference
Branch Chairman Jim McDermott, Treasurer John Swann, Standard Bearer Dave Lawrence and Branch Community Support Rep Karen Brutnell attended this event on 21 Jan 23 at the NMA
The Branch Standard was on Parade.

A key item at the conference was the Legion's 'Corporate Address' which is both a review of the past year and a look forward to some important changes.

The 'Corporate Address' is too long for this newsletter and will be sent separately to all members by email.

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

NEW MEMBERS
A warm welcome to:
Joe Menzies
and
Tim Axtell

**The Branch Standard
was paraded 16
times at a variety of
events in 2022**

You can see back issues of the
Branch Newsletter on the Branch
Website at:
<https://garatshay.org.uk/newsletter/>

easyfundraising.org.uk

Great news - 3 more members signed up to the easyfundraising during January 2023 moving us closer to a total of 100 supporters. Purchases large and small all attract a donation from the vendor. Big ticket items like holidays attract big donations but regular small purchases are also important. As you can see below we have raised nearly £2.500 since the Branch joined the scheme - and all at no cost and little effort (except a few minutes on the keyboard)



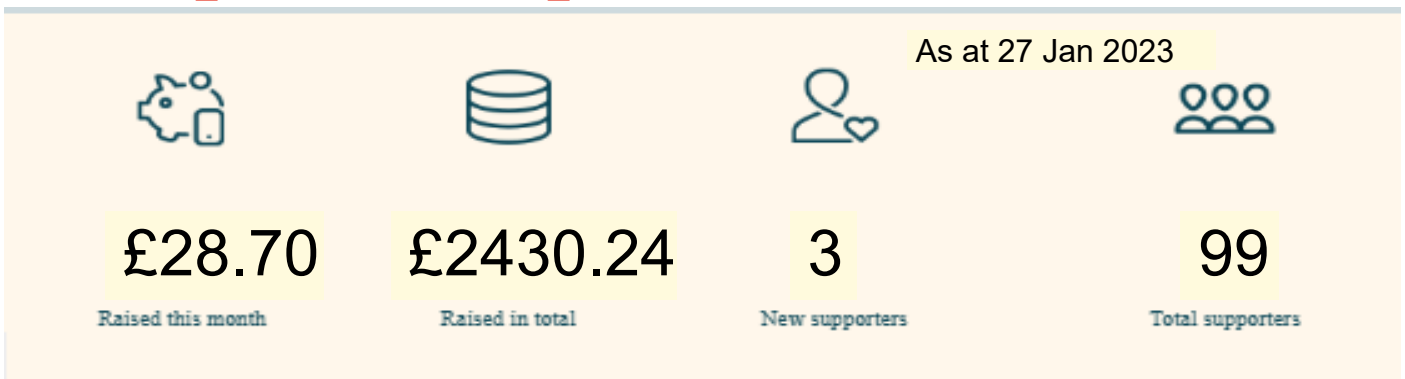
**The REALLY easy and painless
way to raise funds for the Poppy
Appeal all year round**

When you use easyfundraising every time you shop online, over 7,000 brands will donate to our Branch, including all the big names like eBay, John Lewis & Partners, Argos, ASOS, Expedia, M&S, Just Eat, Uswitch and many more! This means you can raise FREE donations for us no matter what you're buying.

If you haven't signed up to support us yet, it's easy and completely FREE. These donations really help us, so it would be great if you could take a moment to get started!

You can find our easyfundraising page here:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/rblyservices/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_medium=email&utm_content=rm-en-e2



Sneaky Business – Early Sigint history

Canadian George Ellsworth was fascinated by the telegraph and longed to become a telegraph operator. As a teenager he moved to Washington D.C. to train at Samuel Morse's school and upon finishing his training he accepted an assignment in Louisville, Kentucky. There he met and befriended John Hunt Morgan.

When the American Civil War broke out in 1861, Morgan became colonel of a Kentucky cavalry regiment. Realizing that his command could use a telegraph operator, he contacted his old friend George Ellsworth, who was living in Texas at the time, and convinced him to join the regiment. It was a relationship that would bring fame to both men.



Ellsworth accompanied Morgan on his raids, where he used the telegraph brilliantly to gather information and sow confusion in the enemy. Ellsworth was a master at tapping into cut lines to intercept Federal messages. He would learn the unique patterns of the operators, then imitate them while sending false and misleading information to Federal commanders about Morgan's movements and the size of his force, sending them on wild goose chases or scurrying away in retreat. Ellsworth earned his famous nickname while sitting in a stream during a thunderstorm with a railroad tie across his lap while tapping out bogus telegraphs to the enemy. Morgan's men dubbed him "Lightning" Ellsworth and that is how history remembers him. Ellsworth and Morgan were notorious for taunting the befuddled Federals who were pursuing them. For example, they sent a telegraph to General Jeremiah Boyle in Louisville that read:

"Good morning, Jerry. This telegraph is a great institution. You should destroy it as it keeps me posted too well. My friend Ellsworth has all your dispatches since July 10 on file. Do you wish copies?"

After taking Somerset, Kentucky they telegraphed George Prentice, the pro-Union editor of the Louisville newspaper who had mocked Morgan in his paper:

"Good morning, George. I am quietly watching the complete destruction of all of Uncle Sam's property in this little burg. I expect in a short time to pay you a visit and wish to know if you will be at home. All well in Dixie."

After Morgan's first raid, Ellsworth prepared an irreverent report detailing how he intercepted Federal communications and how he deceived them with spurious messages. The report was widely printed in newspapers in both the North and South as well as in Europe. The London Times declared Ellsworth's activities to be the most striking and important innovation of the war.

Morgan was captured during the "Great Raid" of 1863 that took his troopers into Indiana and Ohio, but Ellsworth narrowly escaped. After Morgan escaped from prison and made his way back south, Ellsworth joined him again for another raid—the one that would cost Morgan his life. Ellsworth was captured during the raid but managed to escape from prison and make his way to Canada. There he worked for the Confederate Secret Service until the end of the war.

What happened to Ellsworth after the war is unknown. Thomas Edison claimed that Ellsworth worked for him in Ohio, before resigning in boredom and moving to Texas where he became a gunfighter. Others claim he lived quietly as a telegraph operator in St. Louis. Regardless, George "Lightning" Ellsworth went down in history as an innovator in military intelligence and counterintelligence.

Friends of the Y Services Memorial

The Friends of the Y Services Memorial (FOYSM) fund enables us to pay the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) to maintain the memorial and garden, year round, to a high standard. Several members kindly make a small monthly contribution to the fund by Standing Order and help to raise the required sum. However, increasing costs mean the annual bill is always more year on year and more contributions from new donors will always be gratefully received. See details on the two-sided bookmark reproduced below. In addition, if you feel you could blow the trumpet for this fund among relatives and friends please ask for a pack of 5 bookmarks to help promote this very worthy cause. Email your request to yservices.chairman@rbl.community and provide your name and postal address. Thank you.



Friends of The Y Services Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum

A maintenance fund managed
by the RBL Y Services Branch

**You too could be a
Y Services Memorial Friend
Details overleaf**

Friends of The Y Services Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum

The Y Services Memorial Garden at the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) in Staffordshire was one of the first to be built on the site. It is a quiet and peaceful haven standing in memory of all those who have served in the Y Services Organisation.

For many years, the site was maintained by the NMA, volunteers from the RBL Y Services Branch and from a joint-armed forces reserve unit, JSSU(V). Since the spring of 2021, the cost of maintaining the memorial has become the responsibility of the plot owner, the RBL Y Services Branch. The annual maintenance cost is a considerable burden and we cannot use Branch admin funds or Poppy Appeal donations for this purpose. As a result, every year we need to raise in the region of £1,800.

Can you help? Enough people making a small but very welcome contribution by monthly Standing Order of just £3.00 will enable us to achieve the required amount and keep the plot in pristine condition.

A Bank Standing Order leaves you in complete control of your money and your bank details.

How to become a Friend of The Y Services Memorial at the NMA (FOYSM)

Please take out a Bank Standing Order made payable to the

Account Name:

Garats Hay Royal British Legion Branch

Sort Code 40-30-24

Account No: 61824007

Amount: £3.00 monthly (or more if you wish)

Reference FOYSM

Please note
that this is a
Business Account.

When you have set up your Standing Order perhaps you would kindly let our treasurer know by email:

yservices.treasurer@rbl.community

Or by post:

FOYSM c/o

58 Beatty Road
GREAT YARMOUTH
NR30 4BQ



All monies received will be kept in a ring-fenced account. Should the fund greatly exceed our annual need a percentage will be transferred to the Poppy Appeal.

Thank you on behalf of the RBL Y Services Branch (BR3502)

More culture from our very
own Branch Poet, John
Berry (aka Jobe)

Baby Boomers' Lament

There was a time, long, long ago, when our lot ruled the roost.
We were that post-war generation's population boost.
We lived through times which many folks today might call austere....
ration cards, tuberculosis, polio, Korea,
Teddy Boys and Suez, National Service, hanging crimes.
As teenagers we muddled through but also had good times.

Discipline at school was kept with slippers, canes and birches.
While rods weren't spared, nor children spoilt, we still had "poles" and "perches."
Feet and inches, stones and ounces, quarts and pints made sense.
We paid upfront for everything in quids, and bobs and pence.
Housewives Choice, The Navy Lark, The Goons, Beyond our Ken,
Dick Barton on the "wireless" kept us entertained back then.
On black and white TV, the Coronation of our Queen
was watched by even more than followed Dixon of Dock Green!
David Jacobs, (Juke Box Jury), Thank Your Lucky Stars,
swapped soporific ballads for the twanging of guitars,
and songs like "Rock Around the Clock" and even "Juke Box Jive"
were doomed by Janice Nichols when she said "oi'll give it foive"

Cuban Missiles, JFK's demise, the Berlin Wall,
Non! Non! Non! to "Brentry" from our "ally" Charles de Gaulle.
The Beatles, Elvis Presley, Rolling Stones and Buddy Holly,
Christine Keeler, John Profumo, Satchmo's Hello Dolly!
Harold Wilson's promise that "your pound won't be affected"
Burgess and Maclean, and other commie spies defected.

England's World Cup victory had most of us in clover.
Wolstenholme ignored Geoff Hurst and said: "they think it's over!"

Twiggy and Jean Shrimpton were the icons of the age
with Mary Quant's exciting fashions taking centre stage.
Those mini-skirts, like pelmets, worn by "Dolly-birds" were skimpy
and if we wanted "hamburgers" our only choice was Wimpy!
Sputnik, Yuri Gagarin, a dog in space called Laika,
Neil Armstrong, on the moon. The "Wild One," Brando, played a biker.
Kipper ties, flared trousers, platform shoes, and kinky boots,
beehives, afros, mullets, perms, with multi-coloured roots!
Mods and Rockers, Mary Whitehouse, Lady Chatterley,
(a book that's banned for naughty words that start with F and C!)
Flower Power, Hippies, Beatniks, Making Love Not War!
Kids got high on LSD, used Purple Hearts to "score"!

.../continued

They say that when you're having fun, time flies. It does indeed!
The problem is, as time goes by, our faculties recede!

When we were lads and lasses, we were bright eyed, bushy tailed.
Were eagle eyed, could see for miles, our eyesight never failed.
These days we do not qualify for titles "lads" or "lasses"
but find ourselves repeating words like: "Where've I put my glasses?"
We screw our eyes up reading stuff. We now need larger print!
We watch TV with subtitles and still we have to squint!
At Specsavers new frames and lenses cost a soddin' mint!
And yet we traipse there every time we get that wheedling letter,
convinced it's where we **should have gone** to make our eyesight better!

Remember at the Trocadero or the local hop
the gusto with which most of us would rock and roll or bop?
We won't admit we're past it now but claim we're more sedate.
Our energy's expended on maintaining our "estate".
Weed the garden! Mow the lawn! Prune shrubs and clip the hedge!
Take Monty Don's advice on growing flowers, fruit and veg.
The local Garden Centre's now our weekly port of call.
Our horticultural Mecca! Where we go to have a ball!
We spend more than we ever did on tickets for the dance,
buy potting compost, rooting compound, seedlings, bedding plants,
cat repellent, moss killer, blue pellets for the slugs,
hanging baskets, terracotta pots, bright coloured trugs!

A glance at our spare tyre and portly figure now reveals
despite cholesterol build-up we eat daily..... **three** cooked meals!
In between we graze on crisps, jam doughnuts and crème eggs
or tuck into warm tasty snacks from bakers' chains like Greggs.
(One "titbit" that for donkey's years has been our favourite treat
is rolled-up rough-puff pastry that's crammed full of sausage meat!)

We teenagers invented "Sex and Drugs and Rock and Roll!"
We've now chucked in the towel! Tempus fugit took its toll!

Jobe 19 Dec 2022

