

GILL BENNETT ON THE RUN

Branch member and ace fundraiser, Gill Bennett, will be running in the London Marathon 2023. See story page 2



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

Norman Miller MBE

06.03.1934 - 13.02.2023

May he rest in peace.

Gillian Bennett – On The Run!

We often tell Branch members that you don't have to climb mountains, leap high buildings or make dangerous parachute jumps, to raise funds via sponsorship, for the Poppy Appeal. Every issue of this newsletter encourages members to sign up instead for the less than difficult and totally non-physical easyfundraising scheme (see page 5). However, one long serving Branch member has for many years ignored the easy option and gone totally physical by running in lots of events such as the Lincoln 10K, rattling a bucket and raising money for the Poppy appeal. This year Gill is going for the big one – The London Marathon 2023. So, congratulations to Gill on gaining a place in this prestigious event. Please read Gill's story below (copied from her sponsorship appeal page) and support her efforts by clicking on the link below.

Gillian Bennett - My Story

At the grand age of 58 3/4 I'll be running my 3rd London Marathon this April. Yikes! I won't be breaking any records, rather I'll be taking on this challenge in the hope I can raise a bit more money for the Royal British Legion, which continues to work so hard to support, guide and assist ex military, our Armed Forces heroes, veterans and their families, when the going gets tough.

I've been a member of my RBL Branch, the Y-Services now for nearly 10 years and I know how hard they work in support of the annual Poppy Appeal.

Hopefully by running 'London', I can add a few more coffers, and have a truly magical experience again in the process.

Thank You, so much.

To donate: <https://2023tcsllondonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/gill-bennett/post/2640492>



Branch Membership

RBL HQ recently conducted a much needed housekeeping exercise on the Legion membership database and have been chasing members who have not yet renewed this year. To maintain your membership please do ensure you respond to the RBL renewal letter. The ideal way to pay your annual subscription is via Direct Debit. Details of how to pay this way at

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

The Birmingham International Tattoo

The Birmingham International Tattoo is Britain's biggest indoor tattoo (a type of military tournament) featuring marching bands, pipes & drums, field gun racing, dog racing and much more including a spectacular Grand Finale with over 1,000 performers. And of course our very own Dave Lawrence!

Held over the weekend 11/12 February 2023 (having been postponed from September 2022 due to the passing of HLMTQ) the Tattoo opened with a parade of standards and included a Royal Salute for HM King Charles III.



A series of displays included marching bands from Germany, France, local pipe bands, the Royal regiment of Scotland as well as competitions by dog Flyball teams and an inter-service Gun-Run, won by the Royal Navy, and a massed display of Disco Dancing.

The Tattoo concluded with a parade of all performers and a salute to the Colour of the Training Unit based at RAF Cosford followed by the playing of "Sunset" and the lowering of standards - including our own "Y" Services Branch Standard carried by Dave Lawrence.



The next Birmingham International Tattoo will take place on Saturday 10 February 2024 at 1800 hrs and Sunday 11th February 2024 at 1400 hrs

I LIVE
I FIGHT
I WIN

Rules for survival in war

Now here's an interesting read. Branch member Tom Sealy (Ex RN Y Service) has translated into English, the Field Manual issued to all conscripts called up for Putin's "Special Military Operation". Any Branch member interested in obtaining a pdf copy (for free) should contact Tom direct by email:

tomsealy@aol.com



Today's research leads to tomorrow's care.

A study, supported by the Office for Veterans' Affairs and with RBL involvement is being developed and the first step is to establish what needs investigating to help improve healthcare for former service personnel and their families, friends and carers. The following people are sought to answer a new short survey which will influence future research:

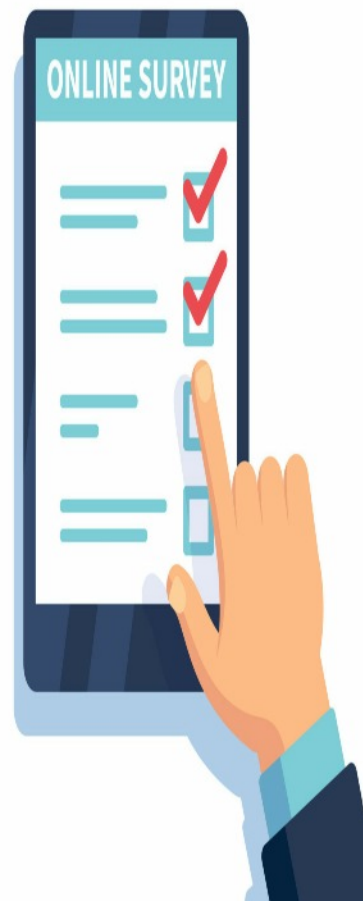
Veterans, family, friends, and other supporters of veterans and the healthcare professionals who work with veterans and families.

This is part of a Priority Setting Partnership led by veterans, family members, charities and healthcare professionals. The survey explores physical and mental health and well-being. Writing as much or as little as you like about anything that you feel is important is OK. With your help, we will identify the Top 10 priorities for research that would improve the quality of life for veterans and their families and supporters.

We are working with the James Lind Alliance to do this and there is more information about the partnership online.

Please take part in the survey by the 31st March and share with veterans, family members, supporters, and healthcare professionals: <https://jla.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/veterans-health-bsp-survey>

Thank you for your help. Together, we can influence future research to investigate areas of real, everyday importance to veterans, families and the healthcare professionals who work with them.



easyfundraising.org.uk

3 more members signed up to the easyfundraising scheme during February 2023, taking our supporters total to 103. 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. **Thank you one and all for your contributions**



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.

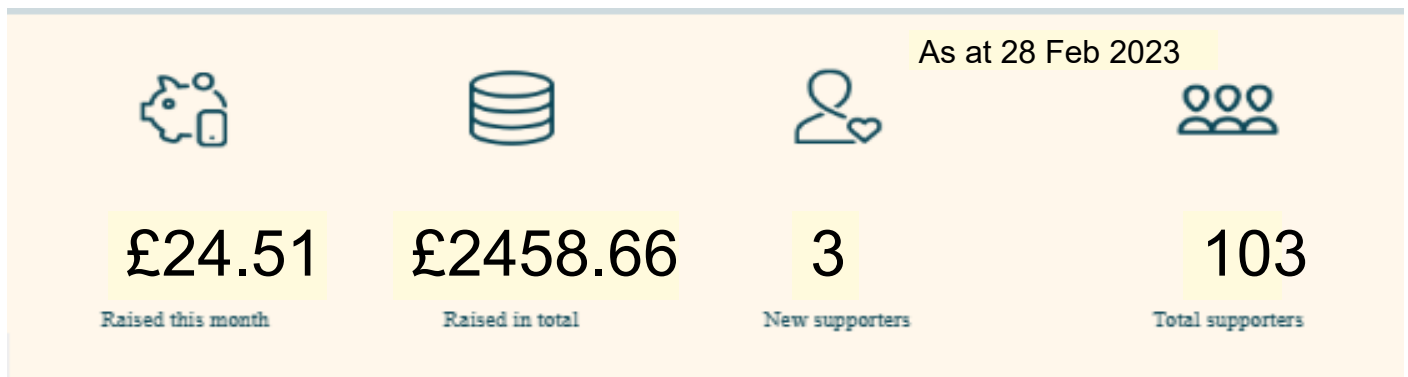
If you haven't signed up to support us yet, it's easy and completely FREE. These donations really help us, so it would be great if you could take a moment to get started!

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

Booking your summer hols? Book via easyfundraising and raise big bucks for the Poppy Appeal.

FUNDS RAISED UPDATE



Chairman's Message

Dear Members,

Publication of the February newsletter was a little delayed as myself and Linda were holidaying on a paddle steamer cruising down the Mississippi. I mention this only because the way that veterans are treated in the USA came into sharp focus for me when, before an evening show, all veterans were asked to stand and received a round of applause. In addition, on all the internal flights we took, the order of boarding announcements started with "All group one and US military please board now." I can't see Jet2 doing that anytime soon! We have had a pleasing increase in members contributing to our easyfundraising efforts, thank you. Branch member Ellis Page has volunteered to fill one of the vacant places on the Branch committee (see below). There is still one vacant place for anyone interested in helping to run the Branch, enquiries to Branch Secretary Chris Lowish on email yseervices.secretary@rbl.community.

Regards to one and all.

Jim McDermott. Branch Chairman

Editor's Note:

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 as well as Branch news 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.

You can see back issues of the Branch Newsletter on the Branch Website at:

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

Welcome

A warm welcome onto the Branch Committee to Ellis Page. Ellis will serve as a co-opted member until the AGM when he will be formally elected onto the committee. Ellis served for 23 years in the Royal Corps of Signals with postings after two years at the Army Apprentice College, Harrogate to Comms & Sy Group (UK), 9th Signal Regiment (Radio), 13th Signal Regiment (Radio), Echo Troop, 233 Signal Squadron, 14th Signal Regiment (EW), 3 Squadron, 13th Signal Regiment (Radio) and then finally, Comms & Security Group (UK). Various detachments to Northern Ireland and the Falkland Islands were undertaken. In civilian life, he undertook various training roles and worked for several Awarding Organisations such as Edexcel and the Guilds. He is now retired as a Professional Grandad!



Idioms for an Idiot?

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

We rise and shine to find a Russian bear with a sore head,
and international peace now hanging by a flimsy thread.
“Rebuild the Soviet Union!” Putin’s mantra, his religion’s
a bee lodged in his bonnet, (puts a cat amongst the pigeons!)
This leopard has a track record and hasn’t changed his spots
A bull’s in Ukraine’s china shop now trashing all the pots!
Twixt Belarus and Russia, bleeds a rose between two thorns.
And someone needs to take that bull most firmly by the horns!
That interloper in Ukraine, has all its muscles flexed!
Like cats on hot tin roofs her neighbours wonder “Am I next?”

Men of reason try to make the bully show remorse
but have to throw the towel in, they’re flogging a dead horse!
He seeks out naïve newsmen’s eyes o’er which to pull the wool,
and plies his folks with stories, all of which are cock and bull.
More fuel is added to the fire - his “Nazi” accusation
flies in the face of truth and further smears his reputation.
The man has earned himself bad press and universal loathing.....
this big cheese who is acting like a wolf that wears sheep’s clothing!

So, listen comrade Putin, you must know you’re doomed to fail!
When you attacked Ukraine, you grabbed a tiger by its tail!
This tiger is no pussycat! It’s fierce!..... It knows the score!
It will defend its territory, fighting tooth and claw!

So, read the runes! The writing’s on the wall (and clearly written!)
that if you bite someone, you run the risk that you’ll get bitten!
Georgia? Chechnya? Crimea? Spell out the reason why
you just don’t get the message.....that once bitten means twice shy?

You’ve opened up a can of worms, you’re dancing on high wire!
You’ve jumped out of the frying pan and landed in the fire!
You’re in a pickle! In hot water! Cornered! In a stew!
Your goose is cooked! You’ve bitten off much more than you can chew!
Your appetite for Chicken Kiev was your worst mistake!
You got more than you bargained for..... it’s made your belly ache
and put the wind up your elite, and they’ve now got the runs
unlike the brave Ukrainians who’re sticking to their guns!

The game is up Tovarishch! Spare your gate-crashers more pain!
Sling your hook! Go forth and multiply!Vacate Ukraine!
It’s crystal clear you’re, up the creek and haven’t got a paddle,
so, on your bike man! Take a powder! Do a bunk! Skedaddle!

You’re rumbled! Caught red handed! You can’t hide your smoking gun!
But will you pay your dues for all the damage that you’ve done?
Brutes who fit your mould should be avoided like the plague
yet forced to bite the bullet, face the music in the Hague!
Beyond a shadow of a doubt you’ve proved your lack of sanity!
The beaks should throw the book at you for crimes against humanity!