



CONTENTS

2. Obituary - Paddy Payne
3. Invictus Games - volunteers needed
4. RBL Annual Conference 2023
5. RBL Annual Conference 2023
6. Easy fundraising update. An accident report!
7. Chairman's message/SG 23
8. Poem from Jobe





OBITUARY

Michael John Payne (Paddy)

Michael John Payne (Paddy) was born on 6 September 1947 and passed away peacefully on 26 March 2023 aged 75 in Derby after a short illness.

Paddy worked for a very short stint as a butcher to pass the time until the next intake into the Army Boys Service, which he joined in September 1963 at the age of 16.

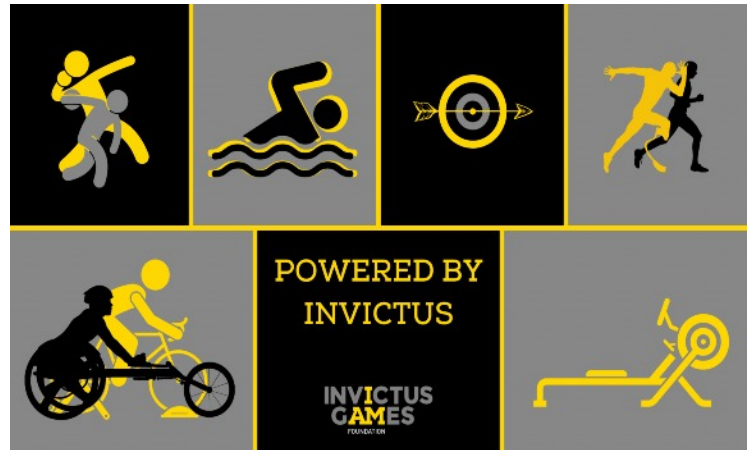
The army defined Paddy's life with 24 years of service taking him around the world including stints in Northern Ireland, the Falkland Islands and Germany. He started off in the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Corps of Signals and ended his career as a Warrant Officer Class One. He had tours with 224 Signal Squadron, 544 Signal Troop (Det 30 Signal Regt), 13 Signal Regiment, 30 Signal Regiment, 226 Signal Squadron, 224 Signal Squadron

On Paddy's return to the UK he joined the Territorial Army and served for many years.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Mick (Paddy) was a devoted family man, He was a beloved husband to Liz Payne and a devoted father to Robert and Samantha His strong, positive, kind, and caring nature made him a cherished and loyal friend to many.

In his free time, Mick enjoyed travelling in his caravan, talking to everyone around the world on his CB radio and riding his Harley Davidson Motor-bike, which brought him joy and relaxation.

Mick Payne (Paddy) will be dearly missed by all who knew him, but his legacy will live on through his family, friends, and colleagues.



Volunteer Opportunities

This is a request for member to assist the Recovery Services Team at Invictus Games Training Camps.

The aim is for members to act as 'roving ambassadors' to promote Legion membership to the competitors and their families whilst they are at the training camps.

Whilst the fine detail is yet to be worked out, it is not expected to require a gazebo or any static stand due to the large, spread-out nature of the training camp locations, often on a university campus, hence the 'roving' request. If anyone is interested in assisting please take a look at the list below and see if there is an event in your area. Anyone interested should contact Sarah Curry the Recovery Operations Manager, direct, for further details,

Email scurry@britishlegion.org.uk

Camp 4 12th -14th May TBC

Camp 5 19th – 21st May TBC

Camp 6 Lilleshall National Sports Centre 26th – 28th May

Camp 7 Brunel University 9th – 11th June

Camp 8 Lilleshall National Sports Centre 16th - 18th June

Camp 9 University of Bath 23rd – 25th June

Camp 10 Lilleshall National Sports Centre 7th – 9th July

Camp 11 Loughborough University 21st – 23rd July

Camp 12 University of Bath 28th – 30th July

Royal British Legion National Conference 19 – 21 May 2023



Our Branch will be represented at National Conference, in Torquay by two delegates, Karen Brutnell and Dave Lawrence. They will be listening to the debates and voting on behalf of Branch members on the following conference motions:

Charter Motion 1

This Conference requests that application be made by the Board of Trustees to the Charity Commission and the Privy Council for an Order to amend the 2003 Royal Charter (Version 14 – 14th October 2019) by replacing:

9. National Officers The National Officers shall be the National President, National Chairman and National Vice-Chairman of the Legion. The National Chairman and the National Vice-Chairman shall be elected by the members. The National President shall be appointed by the Board of Trustees.

With

9. President, Chair of the Board and National Chair of Membership 9.1 There shall be a National President appointed by the Board of Trustees. 9.2 There shall be a Chair of the Board appointed by the Board of Trustees. 9.3 There shall be a National Chair of Membership

Conference Motions submitted by Branches (this is an edited version of a much larger document)

1. That membership of the Royal British Legion be automatically granted to any member attaining 85 years of age.
2. The Conference requests the Board of Trustees to lobby Central Government to extend the responsibilities and civic duties of Local Authorities and Councils arranging Remembrance Events, to include the organisation, running and funding of a Remembrance parade where it is requested by a local Branch or established by historical precedent.
3. This Annual Meeting proposes that Women's Section Standard Bearers be given the option to wear the Women's Section Membership Badge when in uniform
4. This conference asks that the Royal British Legion amend the Ceremonial handbook permitting a Branch to hold more than one designated Branch standard.
5. This Conference recommends that the Board of Trustees makes representation to the MOD that school children's visits (SCVs) of divorced service personnel be equal to that of married service personnel

Conference Motions submitted by Branches (this is an edited version of a much larger document) ... continued

6. This Conference requests that the Board of Trustees undertake a review of Poppy Appeal memorabilia available to PAO's, including the size and contents of 'Kids' Boxes'.
7. That there needs to be more timely and rigorous tracking and reporting, to the Membership, of motions submitted to National Conference, discussed, passed, and approved by the Board of Trustees, detailing how they are taken forward or not, and that this should also be covered in "Matters Arising" at the next National Conference.
8. This Branch requests the Royal British Legion encourages all Branches to seek new members by promoting "best practice" initiatives for encouraging membership.
9. This Branch calls upon the Board of Trustees to ensure that the on-line Membership application process supports new Members joining Branches more effectively
10. This Branch requests that the Board of Trustees mandates the use of Office 365 for all Royal British Legion business at County and Branch Officer levels. All must use these credentials when carrying out their duties on behalf of the RBL and that it is written into the Membership Management Handbook as an essential requirement for the role.
11. This conference views with great concern the ongoing lack of a cohesive strategy setting out the aims to deliver a comprehensive package of training courses for all areas of Membership in a timely manner and urges the Board of Trustees to ensure a clear and defined training policy is created and implemented.

Being Remembered - Obituaries

A certain amount of spleen was vented recently in Int Corps circles when it appeared that Int Corps Darksiders were being afforded stingy obituaries in the annual Corps journal whilst their Op Int counterparts and others were provided with quite comprehensive histories. However this is not a deliberate policy at all; the editor can only use what is sent in. This requires the deceased's family or someone else to pull together the 'story'. Even better is for individuals (whilst still in this world, of course) to pen their own obituaries. As a result and to ensure that those who die are properly remembered, Branch Secretary, Chris Lowish, has undertaken to act as a repository for any obituaries submitted which will be safely stored until needed. In addition he is willing to act at the point of contact to pull together the records, the tales, the list of postings, details of family and civilian life etc when a member dies. Obituaries would subsequently be passed on to the appropriate publication. The ingredients for an obit are suggested as: date of birth, where, school and further education, any career before military service, which branch of the armed forces, where and when posted, duties and experiences, rank(s), post noms, when discharged from service, career after service, marriage, children/grandchildren, where in retirement, anecdotes from family, friends and colleagues, pastimes, date of death, who survived by. Any of these would help!

We will from now on, as a matter of course and with the family's agreement publish members' obituaries in this newsletter.

Your carefully crafted obits can be lodged with: y.services.secretary@rbl.community

[easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)

Two more members signed up to the easyfundraising scheme during April 2023, taking our supporters total to **105**. Purchases large and small all attract a donation from the vendor. This month we raised **£45.70** taking our overall total since we joined the scheme to: **£2517.54** which has been donated to the Poppy Appeal.



You can view our casue page and sign up at: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/rblyservices/>

Thank you one and all for your kind contributions

Dave Lawrence gets it in the Ribs

From our roving reporter

Three weeks ago, seemingly whilst performing some stretching exercises in the bathroom (?) simulating some of the prescribed drill movements with an RBL Standard, poor (old) Dave slipped on the mat he was standing on and crashed down resulting in an argument with the edge of the bath.

The bath turned out to be the victor of the encounter and very effectively broke 4 of Dave's ribs.

Trying to avoid seeking treatment, thinking the ribs were only bruised, he bared it (without the grin-part) until the early hours of Easter Sunday morning, whereupon he was taken to A&E and the full extent of the injury was determined after a CT Scan.

Apart from the considerable discomfort being experienced by the poor (old) chap since then, he is temporarily unable to perform his duties and is currently carrying an 'excused waving a 'flag' chit!

One direct impact was Dave's inability to parade our Branch Standard at the recent funeral for branch member 'Paddy' Payne – his duties being deputised to John Wallace from RBL Derbyshire County with the Staveley & District branch Standard bearer.

We wish Dave well during this painful period and that his recovery will continue so that he can discard the 'chit' by 19 - 21 May when he is due to represent the branch as Delegate & Standard Bearer at the RBL National Conference in Torquay.



Chairman's Message

Dear Members,

This time last year I reported that our Branch membership numbers had remained pretty static at around 435. Over the year we surged closer to 450 but since a major data housekeeping effort at Legion HQ we now have a near real total of 424. Clearly we lose members when they die and others leave for a variety of reasons. So, a repeated plea for everyone please to try and recruit one of our own. Please point anyone interested in joining the Legion and in particular our Branch to:

[Become a Member](#) | [Get Involved](#) | [Royal British Legion](#)

Then click on 'Join the Royal British Legion' button.

The full and formal name of our Branch is RBL Y Services (Garats Hay) Branch (BR3502).

Thank you. Activity wise, your committee is preparing our delegates for the National Conference in May and plans are beginning to be made for the Branch Summer Gathering in July.

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 for text 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/>



An informal meet up in the NMA cafe

Branch Summer Gathering 2023 (SG23)

A reminder that the Branch Summer Gathering (a largely lantern swinging social event) is scheduled for the weekend 21/22 July 2023. The weekend will include a short memorial service at the Y Services Memorial at the NMA. Ex Spec Op and de facto Branch Padre John Bird will be officiating at the ceremony which will begin at 11.00 hrs. All welcome to attend with an informal meet up afterwards in the NMA cafe.

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

The Cost of Loving Crisis?

Old Mabel stood before the beak.
(The hanging judge was on this week!)
Her Zimmer frame began to creak.
The charge of shoplifting she faced
had left her feeling down, disgraced,
and hubby Bert, of fifty years
had had it right up to his ears,
was not best pleased with Mabel's folly
convinced they'd fine her loads of lolly.

The atmosphere was quite intense.
The Store detective's evidence
left little doubt of her offence
(Bert did not leap to her defence!)

What did she steal from Tesco's store?
A can of peaches! Nothing more!
(Grand larceny upon this scale
could well get Mabel sent to jail!
In days of yore they didn't jail yer,
They simply shipped you to Australia!)

"How do you plead?" His worship roared.
"You've got me bang to rights Milord!
I've 'fessed up! I admit my guilt!
I'm in it..... right up to the hilt!
You wonder why I did this deed?
Are we really in dire need?
Well, no! We've plenty in the kitty.
With triple-lock we're sitting pretty.
No need to choose twixt heat or eat.....
I fancied peaches as a treat.

I've Kelly's Cornish ice cream 'ome
and that new dairy spray cream foam.
I thought that I would spoil my Bert
and serve Peach Melba for dessert.....
The Full Del Monte with whipped cream!
Indulgence, of which all men dream.....
and in the process what I did
might well have saved..... about a quid!"

Her candour irked the magistrate.
He banged his gavel, piqued, irate:
"For such a crime you must acknowledge
you're going to have to do some porridge!
Now help me with the sentencin'
How many peaches in that tin?"

With slices combined? Total six!"
"In which case six weeks in the nick's
appropriate. You'll do the time!
I'll make this punishment fit this crime!
With slices combined as a whole
that's one week for each peach you stole,
and sod-all chance you'll get parole!"

Bert's eyebrows knit. He has a thought.
He gestures to the clerk of court.

The judge harangues Bert in frustration:
"You'll lodge a plea in mitigation?"

"Not so..... Your Honour. Au contraire!
I thought you ought to be aware
when sentencing.....consider, please,
.....she also nicked two tins of peas!"

Jobe October 2022



ENDS