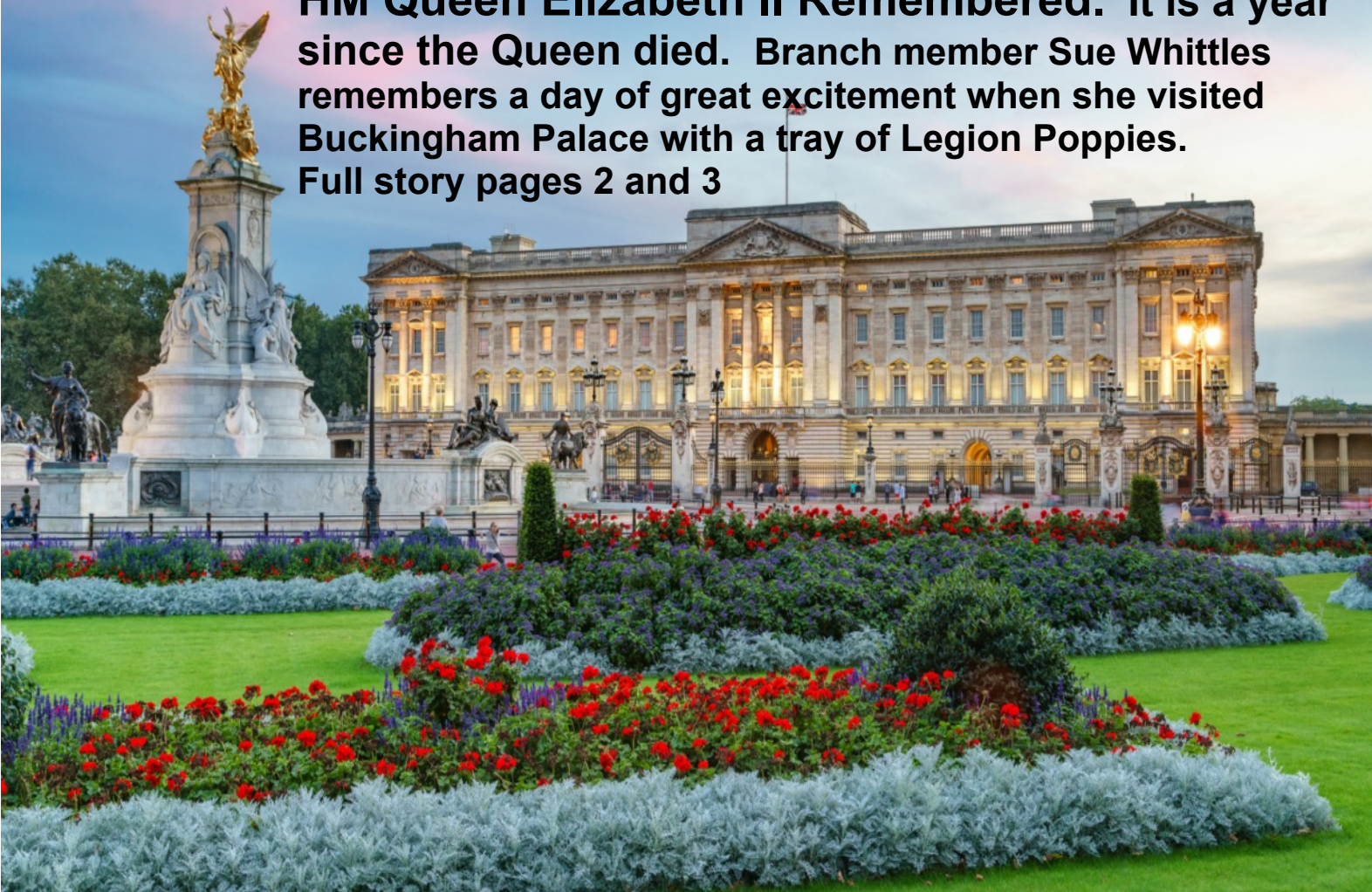


**HM Queen Elizabeth II Remembered. It is a year since the Queen died. Branch member Sue Whittles remembers a day of great excitement when she visited Buckingham Palace with a tray of Legion Poppies. Full story pages 2 and 3**



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

**Jackie Farrell**

**May she rest in peace**

## Memories of HM Queen Elizabeth II

It is whole year now since the late Queen died and Branch Member Sue Whittles thought it would be appropriate and of interest to members to recall a fond memory of her meeting the Queen.

In 2013, I had the great privilege of selling poppies in Buckingham Palace, along with the Director General's wife (Denise). The day started when we picked up the special royal poppies and two normal trays from Haig House and were chauffeured to Buckingham Palace by taxi, the driver of which habitually volunteered to do this as his part of the black cabs' contribution to Remembrance. He excitedly speculated about what would happen – the previous year, the poppy sellers at Kensington Palace had met the then Prince of Wales. We politely, if somewhat sceptically, joined in.

We were met on arrival by the Master of the Household and, as we were being escorted to our allotted places through the labyrinthine corridors, so confusing that there actually were different coloured lines along the walls to help you navigate, we were told that the Queen was in residence and wished to meet us once we had finished selling. Denise and I just looked at each other in amazement!



Queen's Private Apartment



Palace Footmen

Sure enough, after our stint we were told about the protocols of such a meeting – audience? – such as curtsying when one enters and leaves the room. We were taken upstairs to HM's private apartments but asked to wait in a small side room for a few minutes until Her Majesty was ready. The room may have been small but even so there was a picture in it of Charles 1 on horseback which certainly wasn't a framed Athena poster. (OK, so it could possibly have not been the Royal Collection's actual Van Dyke, but it looked pretty impressive for an anteroom.)

A short while later, we were shown into the Queen's private office. I forgot to curtsy. We had a few minutes' chat, at the end of which we handed her the poppy sprays and she made a donation to TRBL. We shook (ungloved) hands and left. I forgot to curtsy again.

## Memories of HM Queen Elizabeth II - continued

The Master of the Household met us and offered to take us back by “the scenic route”, as we would never repeat this experience. We eagerly agreed. Stepping over the ‘dorgies’, we walked along a corridor lined with cases containing beautiful objects given by heads of state and other foreign dignitaries to the Queen and her predecessors. We walked slowly through the state ballroom, taking in as much as we could and definitely *processed* down a staircase which was far too grand for mere walking, finally reaching the exit and the car park where our taxi had waited for us.



The State Ballroom

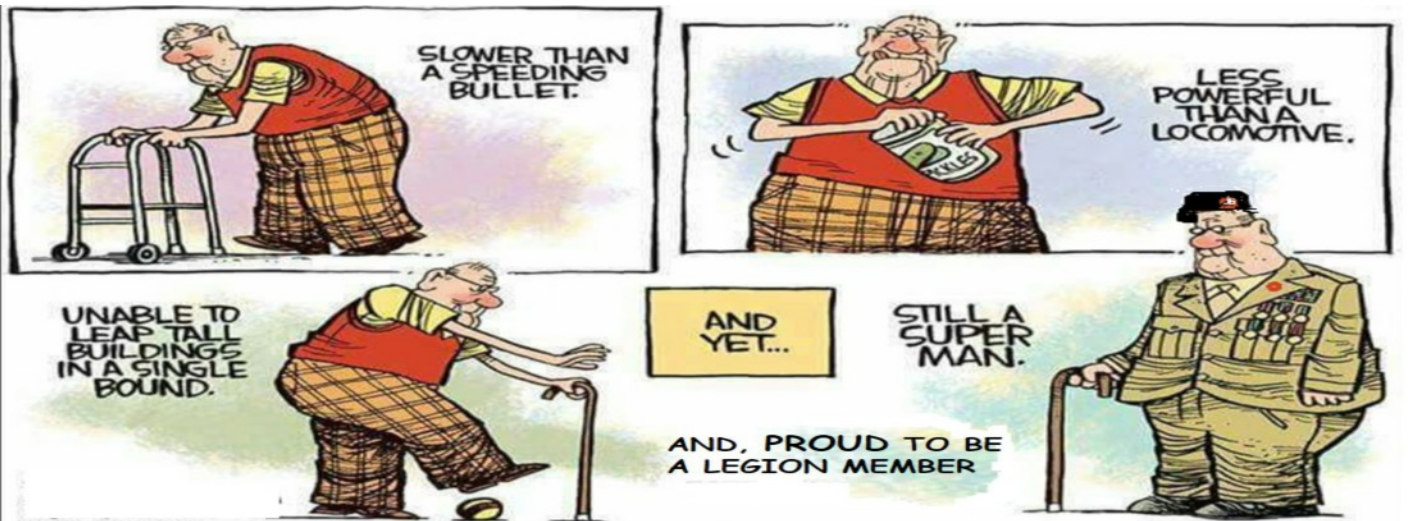


We recounted our experiences to the driver, who seemed even more chuffed than we were. He told us that every Christmas he’d regale his family with “guess who I had in my cab” stories, and asserted that we’d probably be number 1 on his list this year (although with a few embellishments, such as HM making us a cup of tea and some toast). I maintain to this day that he did not drive us back to Haig House. I don’t think the wheels touched the road - he flew us there!

### Post Script:

One of the footmen bought a poppy but said that he could not wear it just then. Apparently, the rule was no poppies to be worn in the Palace before 1<sup>st</sup> November but after that, poppies will be worn.

### Sue Whittles



No resemblance to any Branch member inferred or intended

## Chairman's Message

*Dear Members,*

*We were saddened to hear that Branch Member and former Branch committee member Jackie Farrell has died. Our sincere condolences to John at this sad time.*

*Our year round, really easy, fundraising efforts for the Poppy Appeal continue apace and the sum raised so far creeps closer to the £3,000 mark. Thank you to all 115 Branch members who regularly make purchases online (resulting in free donations) via easyfundraising.*

*In October our Treasurer John Swann will be writing a hefty cheque to pay for the maintenance and upkeep of the Y Services Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum - so a reminder on page 6 of our Friends of the Y Services Memorial Scheme - which collects funds to meet this cost.*

*November is a busy month for the Branch with our Branch AGM on 11 November - details on this page and then on Sunday 12 November, Remembrance Sunday at Old Woodhouse - details in the October issue.*

*Regards to one and all.*

*Jim McDermott  
Branch Chairman*

## MEMBERSHIP

**A warm welcome to  
new member  
Brian Armstrong**

## BRANCH AGM 2023 CALLING NOTICE

The AGM of the Y Services Branch of the Royal British Legion will take place on Saturday 11th November 2023 commencing at 1400 hours.

The venue is  
Greenfields Sports & Social Club,  
Holt Dr,  
Loughborough  
LE11 3HZ.

All members are invited to attend - would anyone planning to do so please let the Secretary, Chris Lowish know in advance by emailing

[YServices.Secretary@rbl.community](mailto:YServices.Secretary@rbl.community)

There are currently no items requiring a Members' vote. Should any member wish to submit an item for the Agenda, could they again please email it to the Secretary by 21 October 2023. Additionally, should any member have a question or wish to make a statement about the running of the Branch, they can again email the Secretary. Apologies, as usual to the Secretary.

# AGM

**2023**

**LOUGHBOROUGH  
11 November**

### 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](mailto:jim.mcdermott77@ntlworld.com) Preferred format for text is unformatted MS Word and any photos, cartoons or pictures should be submitted separately, please, as JPEGs.

## easyfundraising.org.uk

This month we raised **£21.82** taking our overall total since we joined the scheme to: **£2,648.20** which has been donated to the Poppy Appeal. We have **115** members supporting this easy way to raise funds. You could be an easyfundraiser too.

View our cause page online and sign up at:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/rblyservices/>



**Thank you one and all for your kind contributions**

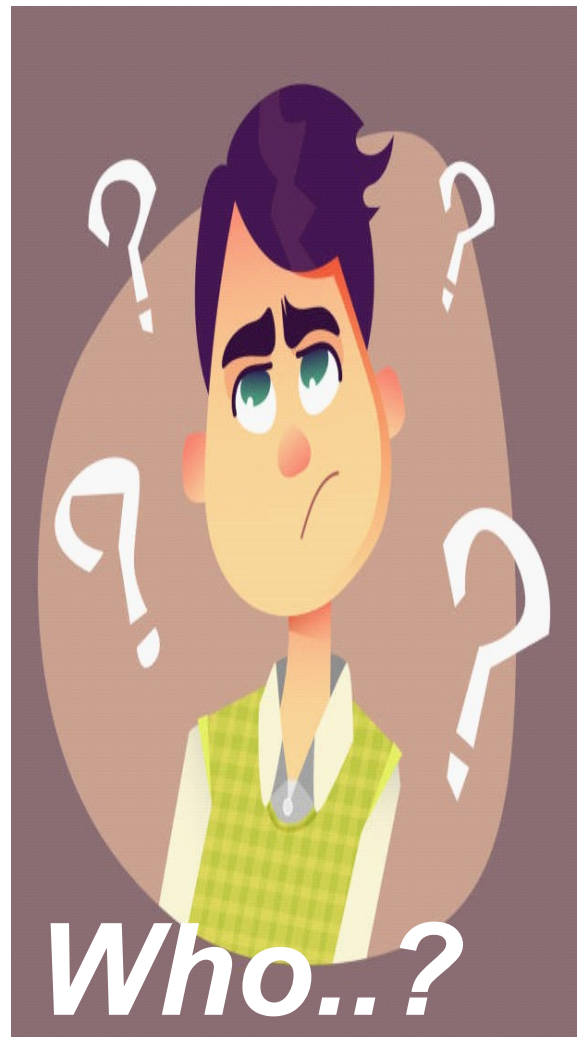
### WHO IS CHARLES NOVACROFT?

The notice below was advised to all members via a separate email but is repeated here in case anyone missed it.

*Members have recently been receiving notification that their membership fees have been paid.*

*Those using Direct Debit are seeing what appears to be an unfamiliar name on their bank statements – CHARLES NOVACROFT. Please be advised that this is the firm contracted by the Legion to collect membership fees; an arrangement which has been in place for at least three years. We don't know but presume that the firm may have changed the wording of their documentation giving rise to the appearance of this unfamiliar name.*

*Please be assured that the company contracted to collect Legion membership fees, whose full name is: CHARLES NOVACROFT DIRECT LIMITED, is perfectly valid and it is unfortunate that this arrangement has not been fully explained to members previously.*



## Friends of the Y Services Memorial (FOYSM)

Update September 2023

The FOYSM scheme run by your Branch raises funds to pay for the maintenance of the Y Services Memorial plot at the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas in Staffordshire. The scheme has been running for a couple of years now, and thanks to the amazing generosity of Branch members and other contributors, we are able to continue to cover the annual cost of ground maintenance carried out by the NMA staff. We are required to pay for this annually in October. The expected charge for 2023/24 will be in the region of £2200.

At the moment we have a total of 43 regular contributors, of which 37 make donations monthly and 6 annually by Standing Order. We have also received 3 one-off donations this year. Without all these donations, we would be unable to afford the cost of the maintenance required.



### Standing order

Most contributors donate the seemingly small amount of £3.00 per month (or £36 annually) but you are free to donate whatever you wish. When you have set up your Standing Order, please let me know by email to: [yserVICES.treasurer@rbl.community](mailto:yserVICES.treasurer@rbl.community).

The Branch Committee is very grateful for the continued support of the  
**Friends of the Y Services Memorial (FOYSM).**

Thank you.



If you would like to join the FOYSM scheme and help us to continue to cover the costs of this important work, please take out a Bank Standing Order made payable to:

**Garats Hay Royal British Legion Branch**  
**Sort Code: 40-30-24**  
**Acct. No: 61824007**  
**Reference: FOYSM**

Please note that this is a business account.