



31 December 2023



**HAPPY
NEW YEAR!**

**Wishing all our members a
Happy and Prosperous 2024**

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Distribution of charitable grants by the Legion

We all know that the Legion does great work helping veterans; here's a report recently received from Head Office on how charitable funds were used during quarter 2 of 2023

Report on Grant Making between April 2023 - June 2023

We use the Cobseo^{*} case management system to manage our cases that we are considering for a grant and share cases securely between a number of other military charities to contribute towards the cost.

During this quarter we issued 7,322 grants at a total value of £4,193,567.

Category	Volume of Grants	Value
Annuities	141	£86,507
Brown Goods	729	£449,857
Crisis	1,982	£418,701
Debt	337	£360,600
Employment	65	£85,816
Energy	2,182	£930,677
Funeral	97	£130,126
Housing	343	£375,031
Immigration and Legal	25	£34,011
Medical	217	£459,787
Misc	385	£118,567
Mobility	341	£511,558
White Goods	478	£232,330
Grand Total	7,322	£4,193,567



This is how Legion charitable funds are used

Grant categories explained on the next page

This represents a reduction of almost £1 Million compared to quarter 2 and a decrease in volume by 1,089 grants. This decrease follows a reduction in the duration that we issued energy support from 12 months to 6 months and also a reduction in demand following the high expense households experienced over the winter.

Compared to the same period last year we have issued almost £1.7 Million more in grants most of which relates to payments for energy, food and clothing as a direct consequence of the cost-of-living crisis.

^{*}The Confederation of Service Charities

Report on Grant Making between April 2023 - June 2023

Category	Types of Grant
Brown Goods	Furniture, carpets and small essential home items like vacuums and bedding.
Crisis	Urgent grants delivered for core needs where applicants can feed or clothe themselves or they are unable to attend essential appointments due to travel costs.
Debt	Most frequently a priority debt with a severe consequence for the applicant if it is not paid, such as rent arrears and council tax. We also fund bankruptcy charged and Debt Reduction orders. Debt related cases receive support from our in-house Benefits, Debt and Money Advice team.
Employment	Cost related to helping people find sustainable employment or find better employment, such as training, equipment, and licenses.
Energy	The provision of support towards energy costs, either on a one-off basis or over a period of time.
Funerals	The essential costs to cover the price of providing a funeral.
Housing	Cost that covers a variety of housing needs. This could be the initial costs to start a new tenancy, or it might include essential repairs for home owners.
Misc	This covers a number of rarer grant types, that often require approval from a senior grant giver.
Mobility	This category covers a variety of mobility needs, including mobility scooters, rise and recline chairs and home adaptations. All mobility grants are supported by an in-depth assessment from our contracted Occupational Therapists.
Medical	A rare category of grant for medical support such as dentistry, counselling and opticians.
White Goods	Large household appliances like Cookers, Fridges, and Washing Machines.



Make your donations go further with Gift Aid

Gift Aid is given by the government on donations to charities at a rate of 25p in the pound, so for every £1 you donate the government will give the charity a further 25p if you are a UK tax payer. This means that a £20 donation will be worth £25.

Most importantly your annual Legion membership subscription counts as a donation. Currently we have just under 50% of our membership signed up to Gift Aid, it would be great if we could increase this percentage. This is yet another easy and painless way of contributing to the Poppy appeal. For full details of how to sign up for Gift Aid go to the link below.

[Gift Aid | Royal British Legion](#)



Scan the QR code below to access our very own Branch Website, read a bit of history, browse back copies of this newsletter and more...

Branch Secretary, Chris Lowish does his bit

Having registered as a Poppy Appeal Collector on the RBL web site back in July, I was contacted by my local branch in East Yorkshire at the end of October. This was to discuss my availability to do a stint on a stand, in one of the several supermarkets in our area, in the run-up to Remembrance Day. I was quickly booked in for two 2-hour spells, one at Marks & Spencer Food hall and one at Morrisons on the 4th and 7th of November respectively, both of which were a short walk from home.

My shifts came and went smoothly, most people stopping for a quick chat, some commenting on my medals and thanking me for my service. On both occasions I was blown away by the generosity of the general public, especially in these times of financial difficulty for many.

I was slightly saddened and disappointed by the lack of engagement from the younger generation, the mid-teens to mid-20s, most of whom were not wearing a poppy nor did they stop to buy one. Regardless, the experience was a positive one and one that I'll be repeating in 2024.

If you fancy volunteering, go to the main RBL web site in July time and you should find some information there. (Editor;s note: And if you do volunteer, please do tell us about it in this newsletter)

Chris Lowish



RBL, **FREE** WILL WRITING SERVICE .

The Legion Will-writing services help you write or update your Will and remember those close to you.

Writing a Will is a vital part of getting one's affairs in order. If you are considering writing or updating yours, here is an ideal opportunity to get it done at no expense to you.

The Legion offers different ways to write your Will for free: online, With a local solicitor or Over the phone on 020 8050 2686. See details online at: Free will writing | Royal British Legion



Chairman's message

Dear All,

2023 has been a busy year for the Branch. We have continued to perform well with our various fundraising efforts, including the Friends of the Y Services Memorial fund (YOSM) which enables us to pay for the upkeep of the site and maintain it to a very high standard. We were well represented at the Legion's Annual Conference 2023 and will again send two delegates to Newport in May 2024 to represent the Branch and join in the debates. A summer highlight will be a memorial service at the NMA in July (details in due course). We continue to cement beneficial relationships with JSSU(R), the JITG at Chicksands and MOD Garats Hay and will continue to do so in 2024.

We began the year with 444 members and after considerable churn ended 2023 with around **433** members (total varies day by day). We hope, with the help of every single member, to work towards increasing our Branch membership to reach an achievable target of at least 450. Anything you can do to encourage, cajole and persuade any siginters you know to sign up, join our Branch and support the Legion, will be greatly appreciated.

In the meantime, contributions to this newsletter, of interest to our esteemed membership, are always welcomed from any member (see panel at the foot of page 8 for submission requirements). The editorial teams never ending quest to inform and amuse has led us to include a number of Legion cartoons in this issue which we hope you will enjoy.

To repeat the front cover splash: **'A Happy New Year and a Prosperous 2024 to one and all'**.

Jim McDermott,
Branch Chairman

Membership Update

A warm welcome to
recent New
Members

**Tracey Wardrope
Stephen Collins
Paul Rowlands**



"It's just that, when you asked me if I fancied a pint down the Legion... "

A Snippet of Military History Games and Sports in the Army 1922-1923

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Extracts from the Rules of the Football Association especially applicable to Soldiers.

The following extracts from the Rules of "*The Football Association*," to which the Army F.A. is affiliated, are published for guidance:—

Rule 3.—A club shall not withdraw its Membership or Associate Membership from an affiliated Association without the consent of this Association.

Rule 23.—Clubs and players under the jurisdiction of this Association, or an affiliated Association, shall not play with or against any club which is not a member of this Association or some other recognised Association.

Rule 24.—Clubs and players shall not compete in any match or competition the proceeds of which are not devoted to a recognised Football Club or Football Association or some other object approved by this or by an affiliated Association. Six-a-side and similar irregular competitions at which gate money is taken are forbidden, unless the consent of the affiliated Association concerned has been obtained (a) (b). Where two affiliated Associations cover the same area, the permission must be obtained from the senior Association.

- (a) A player (except under provisions of Rule 29) is not entitled to take the proceeds of a benefit match until he has been registered as a professional.
- (b) Six-a-side and similar irregular competitions must not be played in the close season.

Rule 25.—Matches shall not be played on Sundays. A person who takes part in Sunday football in the United Kingdom shall not be recognised by this Association.

Rule 26.—A playing season commences on the last Saturday in August in one year and ends on the first Saturday in May of the following year. The remainder of the year shall be known as the

No football on Sundays, how times have changed!

This month we raised **£23.26** all through members buying items online via easy fundraising - not one mountain was climbed nor a marathon completed - simply members buying online - from the comfort of their own home (members enjoying comfortable homes is an assumption). All funds collected in this way go to the Poppy Appeal.

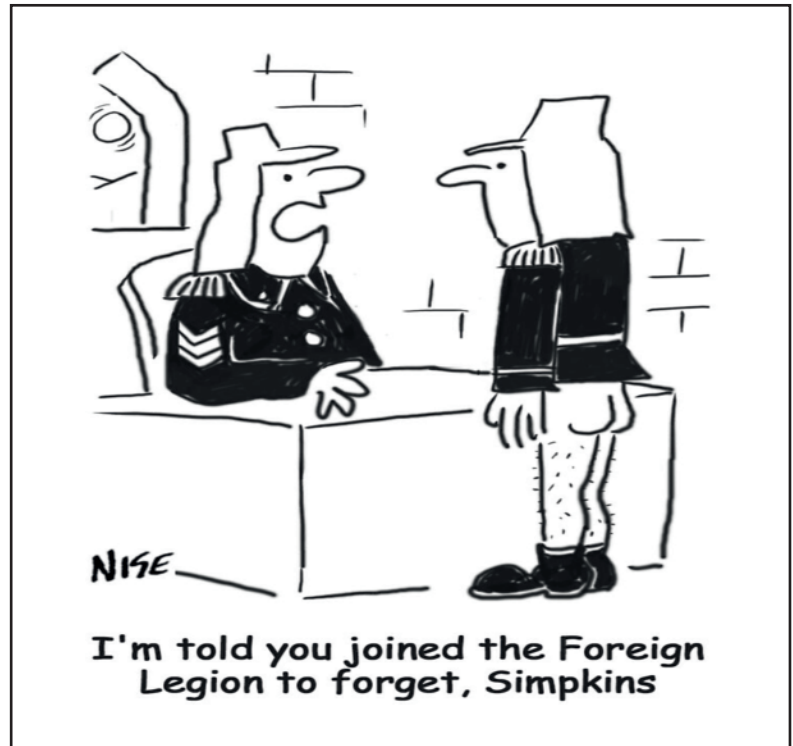
We have **119** members participating (**an increase of two in December**) and since we joined the scheme, in 2016, a total of **£2700.16** has been raised. That's **£385** per year and all for free!



View our cause page online and sign up at:

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

Or scan the QR code below with your phone's camera



Thank you one and all for your kind contributions

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 please, as JPEGs.

ENDS