



Great news for
RBL Y Services Branch

£2.9k

has been raised
for your cause



Congratulations, that's amazing! RBL Y Services Branch has raised more than other causes in their category. **This is a real achievement!**

Share the good news and encourage more supporters to sign up.

Our easy way to raise funds for the Poppy Appeal, 'easyfundraising' has raised more than other causes in the same category

See story on page 2

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DATE FOR YOUR DIARY Summer Gathering 2024

Branch Annual Commemoration Service at our Summer Gathering (SG24) in the "Y" Services Garden at the National Memorial Arboretum, Staffs, on Saturday 20th July commencing promptly at 1030 hrs
Details on page 5

easyfundraising

Who would have thought that when the Branch committee decided to give easyfundraising a go, that 5 years later we would find ourselves recognised as being one of the leading good causes in terms of how much we have raised. Close on £3,000 has been raised by members for the Poppy Appeal. Many thanks to our 127 members who regularly buy online and select our Branch as the good cause they support.



easyfundraising - Stats for May 2024

RBL Y Services Branch

Donations

Donations Total
£2,901.28

Supporters

Supporters Total
127



Last 30 Days
£47.75

Last 30 Days
3

Click, or cut and paste the link below to sign up for easyfundraising and support our Poppy Appeal fundraising efforts.

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

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2024 - CONFERENCE MOTIONS - RESULTS OF VOTING

Legion Annual Conference took place this year over the weekend 11/12 May 2024 in Newport Wales. We sent two delegates who contributed to debates on the motions listed below. Results of votes for each motion are shown in red

1. This Conference requests that the BoT works with Novacroft to improve the level of its performance with regards to the collection of membership fees and the handling of new membership applications. **AGREED**
2. This Conference requests that the BoT review the way that the tickets for the Festival of Remembrance (FoR) are allocated. **AGREED**
3. Chingford Branch and Plympton & District Branches request that national conferences have a County Youth Officers forum included as part of the national conference membership Forum. **AGREED**
4. This Conference requests that the BoT consider supporting the creation of a National Veteran's Week for the UK.. **AGREED**
5. This branch calls on delegates to express their dissatisfaction with the current BoT continued lack of transparency and attention to the views of the wider membership by approving a Vote of Censure on the Board for its handling of their proposed Governance Changes. **AGREED**
6. That the MS1 / MS1A be amended to include the f statement within the declarations: "I have never worn medals I am not entitled to, nor falsely claimed to have been a member of Armed Forces nor lied about my Service." **AGREED**
7. Membership Council calls upon the members to support an increase in the annual • From 1 Oct 2024 - £20 per year • From 1 Oct 2025 - £22 per year • From 1 Oct 2026 - £24 per year • From 1 Oct 2027 - £26 per year • From 1 Oct 2028 - £28 per year. **AGREED**
8. Membership Council calls upon the members to support a £5 increase in the annual membership fee for the next financial year – 2024/2025. This would mean members paying an annual membership fee of £23 per year from 1 October 2024. **AUTOMATICALLY FAILED**
9. This Branch calls upon the BoT to develop model multi-faith and ecumenical Services for events such as Remembrance Day, and that these be added to the the Ceremonial Handbook. **AGREED**
- 10 This conference requires that the Legion embrace the concept of family membership as overwhelmingly agreed by Conference in 2019. **AGREED**
11. This conference urges the BoT to amend the standard bearers' dress to read: "May wear head dress/cap badge of the branch in which they served." **NO SHOW/NO VOTE**
12. This Conference requests that RBL approach advises and recommends to His Majesty's Government A retrospective award of a GSM 1962-2007 Clasp BELIZE to all who served in Belize from 1972 to 1994 to recognise their operational service. **AGREED**
13. That the RBL looks to implement a modern theme into school assemblies that has relevance today to complement existing RBL school teaching material. **AGREED**

Summer Gathering 2024

We will be holding our Branch Annual Commemoration Summer Gathering (SG24) in the "Y" Services Garden at the National Memorial Arboretum, Staffs, on Saturday 20th July commencing promptly at 1030 hrs (The NMA site opens at 10:00hrs). The short service will be followed by a walk around the arboretum and lunch (own expense) in the NMA Cafe.

The service for SG24 will be conducted by the Branch Padre, The Revd. John Bird (known by many as 'The Rockin' Rev). It will include a 'March-in' of Standards, an Act of Remembrance and the laying of wreaths for "Y" Service personnel killed in service since WW2.

All members are cordially invited to attend. If you are able to make it, please remember to pre-book your car parking for £4 on the NMA website. Parking on the day will cost £6.

Recommended dress: Blazer or Lounge suit or the equivalent for ladies. Medals to be worn and berets optional.

To assist in the organisation (printing the order of service) if you do plan to attend, grateful you let Branch Secretary Chris Lowish know by email please: yservices.secretary@rbl.community



Editor's Note: Contributions to the Branch Newsletter are always welcome on topics members think will be of general interest. We aim to provide uplifting stories as well as Branch news and attempt not to duplicate material sent from RBL HQ. Copy should be sent by email to the editor at: jim.mcdermott77@ntlworld.com Text to be unformatted in MS Word. Photos, cartoons or pictures should be submitted separately please, as JPEGs.

Chairman's message

Dear Members,

I attended Legion Annual conference 2024 as a delegate and the voting results of conference motions are reported elsewhere in this newsletter. We try not to report on news or issues which have already appeared in other media but the news that Legion President Admiral Sir Clive Johnstone had died suddenly just after the conference ended was quite a shock. Just the previous day I had shaken his hand as he presented me (on behalf of the Branch) with the Churchill Shield.

Our efforts with easyfundraising have greatly contributed to our Poppy appeal fundraising efforts and this continues to be the really easy way for us to raise funds.

Our next event is our Branch Summer Gathering which includes a memorial service at the Y Services memorial and garden at the NMA, details on page 4. Lets make this the best gathering yet with a big turnout - a great opportunity to meet up with old friends and pay a visit the NMA.

Jim McDermott, Branch Chairman

BRANCH MEMBERSHIP CREEPS SLOWLY TOWARDS
450
WE CURRENTLY HAVE
438 MEMBERS

IF YOU KNOW OF A Y SERVICE TYPE WHO IS NOT A
MEMBER PLEASE POINT THEM IN OUR DIRECTION

<https://selfservice.britishlegion.org.uk/addmember/details>

New Newsletter editor Needed - Apply Here!

A reminder, again, that the current newsletter editor is stepping down at the November 2024 AGM leaving the post vacant.

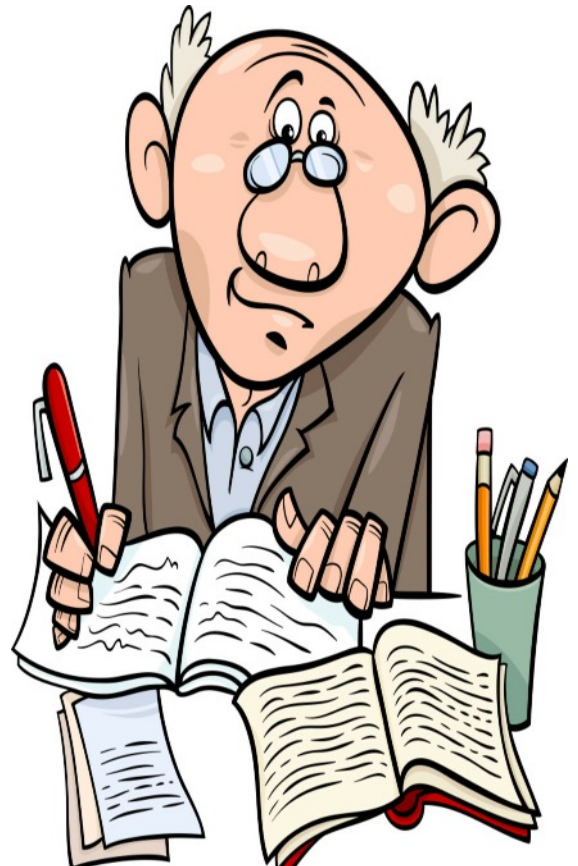
The Branch newsletter is read by a large percentage of our membership with many opening the document within seconds of it being transmitted. So, we need a member, please, to take on the role to produce 'a newsletter'.

The current format is published monthly but it could be less frequent and set out in a design or format and distributed in a way which suits the new editor.

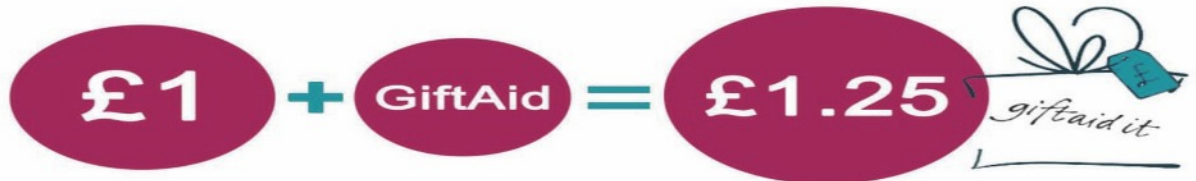
The current newsletter is distributed using Mailchimp software which is free, easy to install and easy to use.

Anyone interested in taking on the role or for further information, please contact the editor direct by email:

jim.mcdermott77@ntlworld.com



GIFT AID



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](#)

MONTHLY GET TOGETHERS

Gloucester area get together – Last Thursday of every month.

Location: Wetherspoons (The Regal), Kings Square, Gloucester.

Timings: 1200 hrs onwards

Information: Advertised on the Spec Ops Home & Ex Spec Ops Home Facebook Group. Everybody welcome.



Lincoln area get together – Third Friday of every month.

Location: Lion & Snake, 79 Bailgate, Lincoln. LN1 3AR

Timings: 1430 hrs onwards

Information: Advertised on the Spec Ops Home & Ex Spec Ops Home Facebook Group. Everybody welcome.



Portsmouth area get together – Second Thursday of every month.

Location: The Isambard Kingdon Brunel (JD Wetherspoon pub),
2 Guildhall Walk, Portsmouth.

Timings: 1200 hrs onwards.

Information: Advertised on the Spec Ops Home & Ex Spec Ops Home Facebook Group. Everybody welcome.



York area get together – Second Thursday of every month.

Location: The Punch Bowl (JD Wetherspoons), 5-9 Blossom Street,
York. YO24 1AU

Timings: 1130 hrs onwards.

Information: Advertised on the Spec Ops Home & Ex Spec Ops Home Facebook Group. Everybody welcome.



Ayr and surrounding area get together – Saturday 8th June 2024.

Location: The Twa Dugs, Ayr (One minute walk from the train station. However, the train station is currently, closed due to demolition works but there is a free bus transfer service being running from Prestwick to Ayr train station)

Timings: 1200hrs onwards.

Accommodation: Closest hotel to The Twa Dugs is the Ayrshire and Galloway (B and B approximately £90). Plenty of other accommodation within Ayr. Information: Further information please contact Jock Robertson on jockfrilangy@yahoo.co.uk. Everybody welcome



Source: Branch Committee Member Ellis Page

Branch Chairman and Vice Chairman Visit RAF Digby

Branch Chairman, Jim McDermott, was pleased to receive and accept an invitation from the Station Commander of RAF Digby to attend his annual reception on 23 May 2024. He took along Branch Vice Chairman Dennis Weir to rub shoulders with local dignitaries, contractors and, of course, those serving in the various units which comprise RAF Digby. The drinks flowed the canapés were sampled and great efforts were made to promote the Legion and our Branch. The station is tri service as well as the temporary home of service men and women from the USA, Australia, New Zealand and Canada on exchange tours. The station commander set out the future of the base which is mainly located in buildings dating from world war two. There is a major build planned in the near future which will ensure that Digby continues to play an important role in defence of the realm. The evening ended with a sunset and flag lowering ceremony and a march past by the military contingent including a very smart squad of local air cadets This visit further cements the good relationship we already enjoy with JSSU(R) based at Digby.



Culture Corner - Poetry from Jobe (aka John Berry)

A Likely Storey!

A craggy old major who most spec ops knew
had certain mess duties he needed to do.
So, being a thruster with deadlines to meet,
he thought he'd get on with it, toot sort of sweet!

This duty, to do with a ball in the mess,
called for foreign assistance, from Frenchmen, no less!
Now, being a chappie who's full of resource,
he dialled the consulate, (Français, of course!)

Not being a LING(SI), nor parlaying vous,
it came as a shock when the call was put through.
No strains of old Oxford, or Glasgow or Harlech,
just nasal Chevalier, reeking of garlic!

In Wapping or Clapham or even North Kent,
there's no lingo problem for this cultured gent,
but ten-to-the dozen of "he-haw-he-haw!"
don't please him at all – they leave his nerves raw!

He tackles the Frenchman: "Ang on a mo, mate!
Parly voo onglay, an' we'll get on great!"
The gentleman diplomat, deaf to his pleas,
prattles on gaily with "biens" and "oui oui's"

Till our hero, whose patience is known to have bounds
gets stuck in again with some impolite sounds
like "daft bleedin' Froggie!" and "Wasted 'phone call,"
(and nasty remarks about Charlie de Gaul!)

He's about to ring off, thinking "San fairy Ann!"
when a triple tone noise strikes a chord in our man.

With a tearing of hair, he concedes with a groan,
"I've just had a row..... with a Frog Ansaphone!"



Jobe
Ayios Nikolaos Summer 1984

ENDS