



# Happy Birthday to Branch Member Joyce Long, 100 YEARS YOUNG 30 October 2023



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**MOD GARATS HAY APPEAL TO HELP  
FAMILIES OF AFGHANIS WHO ASSISTED  
THE COALITION FORCES**

See page 5



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY JOYCE

100 years young - 30 Oct



Joyce at the  
NMA 2021

Joyce Long (wearing the white hat, in conversation with Pat Davies, a Bletchley Park Veteran). Joyce was chief clerk at Beaumanor Hall during World War Two and made sure the ATS girls were fed watered and most importantly, she says, paid!

Joyce is a keen member of the Branch and attended Branch events and AGMs up until quite recently. She still lives at home in Leicester and is visited frequently by her daughters. The Branch presented Joyce with a bouquet of flowers and a Birthday card.

Happy Birthday Joyce and congratulations; we hope you had a great day.



Joyce in the ATS  
in 1942



Joyce at home  
celebrating with  
family in 2023

**REMEMBRANCE SERVICE  
ST MARY-IN-THE-ELMS CHURCH,  
OLD WOODHOUSE,  
LEICESTERSHIRE, LE12 8UZ  
SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2023**



The annual Remembrance Day Service will take place at St Mary-in-the-Elms Church, Old Woodhouse, Leicestershire on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2023, commencing at 1045 hours.



During the service a collection will be taken for the Poppy Appeal. Our Branch Standard will be on parade as will a representative from MOD Garats Hay and uniformed contingents from Chicksands and JSSU(R). After the service there will be a short parade at the village war memorial for the laying of wreaths.

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided in the village hall at the conclusion. A donation box will be placed by the door and donations will be welcome to defray the cost of these refreshments, the hire of the hall and the service from the Ladies of Woodhouse.

Personnel attending are advised to arrive by 1030 hours latest, as the Church is always very well attended on this occasion. Parking is available across from the church on the village hall grounds. Please **DO NOT PARK** outside the church entrance, as this is reserved for disabled personnel.

**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.



## Chairman's Message

Dear Members,

November is the month when your Branch committee springs into action and prepares for the AGM when we hope as many members as possible will similarly find time to spring along to the Greenfields Sports and Social Club in Loughborough (there is a well stocked bar). See details on this page. Of course for the rest of the year your committee has not been idle with detailed accounts being kept, our Standard frequently on parade, members in need of help and support being cared for and happy occasions like speaking to Branch member Joyce Long on her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Members who served at Garats Hay (and those who avoided it) will be interested in the article about Afghani families on page 5; the MOD Garats Hay Toy Appeal is a very worthy cause and all contributions will be greatly appreciated.

Looking forward to seeing lots of members at the AGM.

Regards to one and all.

Jim McDermott  
Branch Chairman

This year's plastic-free poppy is the first redesign of the iconic symbol of Remembrance in a generation and is the latest in a series of designs since the poppy was first used to raise funds in 1921.

The plastic-free poppy is made from 100 per cent paper and easily recycled in household collections. The innovative new poppy design features the iconic poppy shape, with a black centre embossed with 'Poppy Appeal', and a leaf with a crease. It no longer has a plastic stem or centre, and it can be fastened with a pin in the stem, worn in a buttonhole, or a stick-on version is available.



Old style poppies will also be available as Branches use up old stock

## REMINDER

# AGM

**2023****LOUGHBOROUGH  
11 November**

### 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 - and if you are 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 as soon as possible. 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 for non attendance, as usual to the Secretary.

### MEMBERSHIP

**A warm welcome to  
new member  
Ian Robinson**



## **MOD GARATS HAY APPEAL TO HELP FAMILIES OF AFGHANIS WHO ASSISTED THE COALITION FORCES**

### **A plea for help from the Head of Establishment (HOE) and Executive Officer (XO) at MOD Garats Hay**

The MOD Garats Hay has received a Government Tasking to support the Afghanistan Relocation and Assistance Policy (ARAP) .

We have become a temporary rest stop for several Afghan families arriving to the United Kingdom before they are transported to their settled accommodation across the country. Families will be flown into the United Kingdom and bused to MOD Garats Hay from arrival airports. The aim of this is to give them the opportunity to rest and recuperate from their long and potentially stressful journey before being moved on to their final destinations. Defence has assigned a team of military personnel to ensure that the families will be well looked after during their short stay.

We expect to have multiple families pass through the facility over the coming months and will aim to have no more than around 300 residents on site at any one time. Once this temporary tasking is completed, MOD Garats Hay will revert to being a Training and Conferencing facility for Defence. We hope that this will not have too great an impact on the local community, however you might well see the families out and about locally. They will all have visas to live and work in this country and are free to come and go as they please.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Afghans who risked their lives working alongside UK forces in Afghanistan and we feel privileged to be able to support the ARAP scheme by providing a welcome base for them upon their arrival in the United Kingdom.

.....continued overleaf



## MOD GARATS HAY APPEAL TO HELP FAMILIES OF AFGHANIS WHO ASSISTED THE ALLIED FORCES (continued)

### Our plea for help:

These families will have very little when they arrive, and it would be wonderful if we were able to give the children some toys to play with. **If you are able to donate any old toys and books to keep the children of all ages entertained whilst they are staying with us that would be greatly appreciated.** These can be dropped off on Remembrance Sunday at St Mary in the Elms and the church will make sure that we get them.

We thank the Y Services community in advance for their support.

### Heather and Wayne HOE and XO

Our roving reporter spoke to the local vicar the **Rev Lisa Temperley-Barnes** who said she is very keen to help Garats Hay with their appeal and says: *"I cannot even imagine what it must feel like to have to leave everything you've ever known, or, had, behind but I do know that together, as a loving community we can help to bring a smile and make a difference to their lives by loving our neighbours and sharing what we have."* So if you are able to donate any old toys, books, jigsaws that would be much appreciated. "



## DONATIONS

If you are planning to attend the Remembrance service in Old Woodhouse on Sunday 12th November 2023 please find time to assemble a bag of goodies (non food) for Afghani kids and deposit it in the church. Thank you.

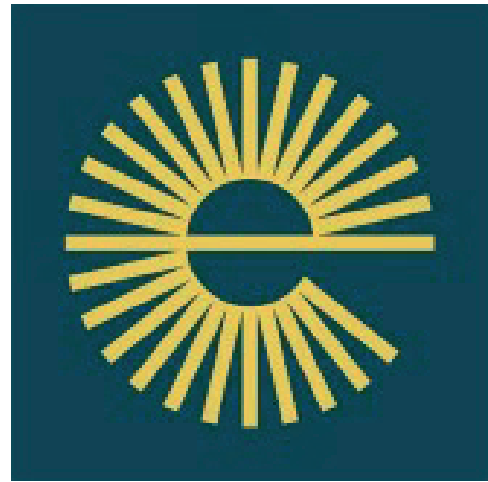
Scan the QR code below to access our very own Branch Website, read a bit of history, browse back copies of this newsletter and more...



# easyfundraising.org.uk

This month we raised **£31.41** 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 **115** members participating and since we joined the scheme a total of **£2679.61** has been raised.



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

