



The Royal British Legion
Mitcham Branch, BR1005
26 St Marks Road
Mitcham
CR4 2LF

AGM Meeting of Mitcham RBL Branch BR1005
At 12:00pm on 18th October 2025

In attendance:

Committee:

Paul Picano – Chairman, Ian Munn – Vice-Chairman, Joan Henry – Branch Secretary, David Barley – Standard Bearer, Leigh Jackson – Committee Member, Gary Baker – Treasurer, Siobhain McDonagh – President, Paul Smith – Committee Member

Members:

Liz Maher, Janet Teague, Stephen Keene -Elliott, Mary Browett, Liz Muir, Louise Hurley, Christine Brett, Brenda Fraser, Claudia Grout, Angela Picano, Helen Clark, Alan Clark, Sue Clark, Sue Anderson, Jenny Beasley, Ann Gillespie, Alan Barley, Pam Tyler

Welcome:

The meeting was opened by the RBL Mitcham Chairperson, with duties carried out by the Branch Standard Bearer along with the exhortation by the Chairperson.

**They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old, Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn,
At the going down of the Sun and in the morning, we will remember them.**

Prior to the meeting starting a minute silence was performed to remember the Branch member that had recently passed away. In remembrance of Christine Kelly

Report of the AGM 2024:

The Chairman asked all the attendees to view the AGM 2024 minutes and approve, Approved, and signed off.

Chairpersons Report:

During the recent meeting, the Chairman addressed several important topics concerning the Royal British Legion (RBL) Mitcham branch. The report was stated from the Action Plan dated 2024/2025. The Chairman reported that all the targets for the year had been met or achieved except for one, the quarterly market stall. From the plan and achievements RBL Mitcham was placed in to a strong growth process. The Chairman felt that due to still some uncertainty regarding the future of RBL Mitcham, it would be unfair to the members to produce a working plan further than the current year, it was also stated that RBL Haig House (properties) and Trustee Mediator were happy for the branch to carry on with running the branch as per plan. This was met with approval from all in attendance.

Secretary's Report:

The Branch Secretary opened her report by mentioning the journey made to date in getting RBL Mitcham to where it was today. was purely down to the commitment and drive of the Chairman. There was nothing else to say apart that the current plan in place needed to be continued with, urged all the Branch members to start coming forward to ensure that the great work was not in vain.

- Improved communication with branch members via email/website
- Created Facebook media site
- Increased Branch Membership
- D-Day event in Mitcham Town Center.
- Posted Branch Accounts on time, Posted MS1 on time, Branch is now operating legally within RBL policies.
- Increased Committee Members
- Branch Secretary entered the Normandy Beaches event for the RBL
- Created Coffee Hub
- Decorated club area for Events & Members
- Leasing out room and become self-funding as well as Fundraising for Events
- Final stages of Youth Affiliation

This was met with approval from all in attendance.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer reported that the Branch accounts were now closed for this year's accounting and had been registered at Haig House. The Treasurer had also provided a breakdown for the AGM minutes,

Summary of Accounts 2024/2025

Opening Balance - 01/07/2024 **£3,479.41**

Closing Balance – 30/06/2025 **£12,873.32**

See attached for detailed report.

Poppy Appeal:

The Poppy Appeal Organiser provided an update on the Poppy Appeal's performance over the past year. He reported that the total funds raised for the appeal was consistent with figures from previous years, although the figure was slightly lower than previous years. Recognizing the importance of community involvement, the Poppy Appeal Organiser expressed a desire to increase the number of volunteers this year. Expanding the volunteer base not only helps with logistical needs but also enhances community engagement and awareness of the Poppy Appeal's importance, this year will see the introduction of a trial Poppy Appeal pop-up at the Merton Civic Centre. This location has been strategically chosen due to its high foot traffic, which can potentially engage more members of the public and encourage donations.

President's Report:

The President, Siobhan McDonagh, stated that Christine Kelly would be missed at this year's Poppy Appeal, she echoed the Poppy Appeal Organiser message.

Standard Bearer's Report:

David Barley, the Branch Standard Bearer, reported that he had completed training at the new RBL Standard Bearers venue. He also attended two funerals, with a third scheduled for later in the month. Additionally, he was invited to participate in competitions representing the Greater London District (GLD) but noted that further dates and additional training would be needed before he could take part.

Election of additional Committee members:

The new Branch Committee elections were as follows:

Liz Maher – Recruitment – 3yrs, Brenda Fraser – Youth – 3yrs, Ann Gillespie – Events – 3yrs, Alan Clark – Maintenance – 3yrs

Branch Awards:

The Chairman spoke of Branch Awards for volunteers that expressed "Service, not self" during his first year of becoming Chairman at RBL Mitcham, the following awards were given:

Sue Clark, Alan Clark, Angela Picano, Paul Smith, Sue Anderson, Liz Maher.

Battlefield Tour Event

Leigh Jackson shared details about a recent Battlefield Tour he attended. Over time, he has developed a package for members interested in participating, though spaces are limited. The proposal received positive feedback from many members. Leigh Jackson will gather further information, including pricing and scheduling, and will provide an update at the next committee meeting.

Closing of AGM Meeting:

The meeting was Closed by the Chairman where he read out his vision for the following year, see attached message, with duties carried out by the Branch Standard Bearer along with the exhortation.

The Legion of the living shall salute the Legion of the dead; thou shall not part with thee.

Signed by

Chairperson

Vice Chair

Secretary

Date Signed

Date Signed

Date Signed