

Royal British Legion Redditch Branch Spring 2026 Newsletter

Dear Members,

Welcome to our Spring newsletter. We have an updated committee who are continuing working hard in their new roles.

President - Philip Jarvis, **Chairman** - Gerald Marsden, **Vice Chairman** - Juliet Brunner

Treasurer – Paul Stringfellow, **Secretary** - Mark Evans

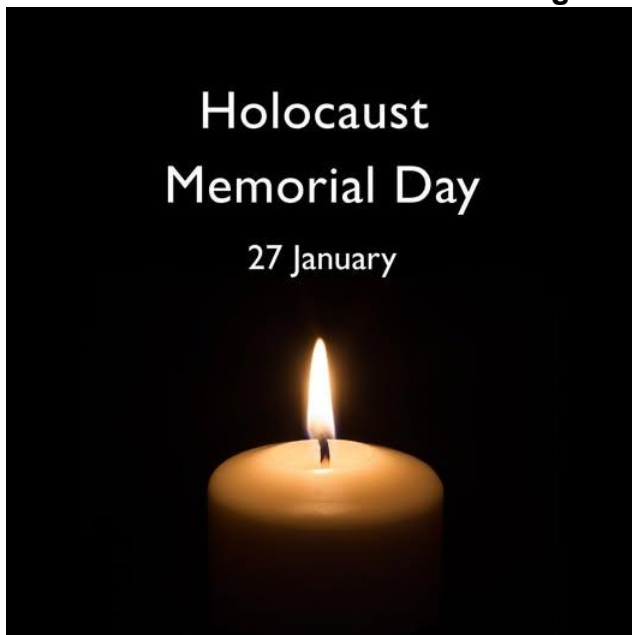
Branch Community Support - Tina Ashcroft, **Social Media** - Mark Reynolds

Standard Bearers - Ian Hart, Simon Hobson

Committee Members – Angela Heighway, Shaun Sloan

Congratulations to Tina Ashcroft who has completed the Branch Community Support training. Also, Mark Evans who has completed Branch Secretary training.

Remembering Holocaust Day 27th January



On this day 81 years ago, Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi concentration camp, was liberated. It is estimated that 1.1 million people lost their lives there, with many more millions killed in the Holocaust.

On this day we joined the nation in remembering all those who fell victim to such brutality, simply for being who they were.

At 8pm people across the nation light candles and placed them in their windows, in tribute to all those who lost their lives.

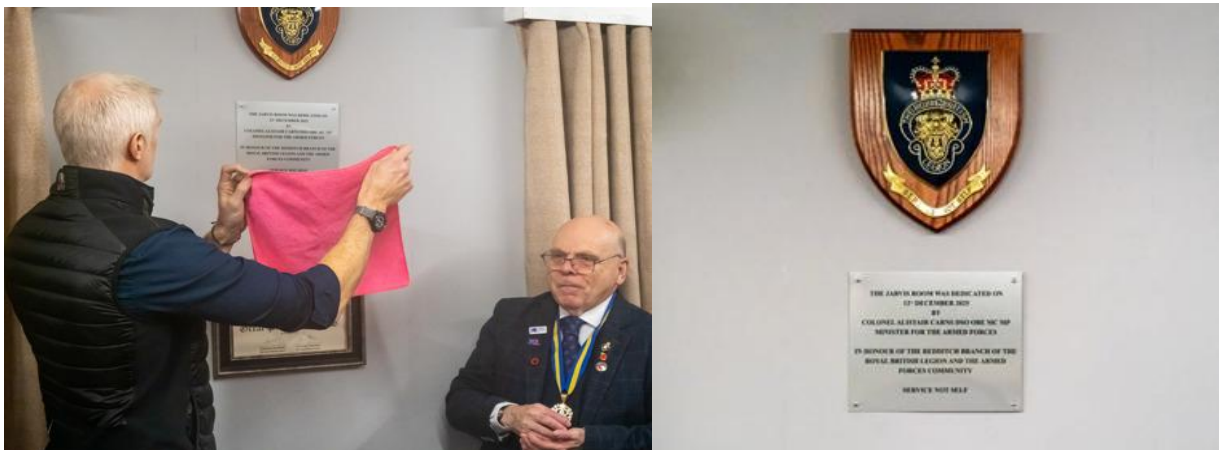
Remembering the Iraq War - 15 Years On

15 years on from the end of the Iraq War, the RBL invites all those who served in the conflict (Operation TELIC) and family members, including the bereaved to come together for an event held at the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas, Staffordshire on May 22nd at 12pm. We warmly invite those to attend from the serving and veteran communities who served in the Iraq War (Op TELIC: 2003-2011), families of those who served in Iraq (including the bereaved), and those who worked as civilian contractors supporting British Forces and civil society in the country.



The Jarvis Room

We had the pleasure of hosting the Minister for the Armed Forces Alistair Carns DSO OBE MC MP who dedicated our committee room as the "Jarvis" room along with Chris Bloore MP for Redditch and the Villages. The room was blessed by Father Jason Mahoney. The room is dedicated to Kenneth Baylis Jarvis, who was the father President Philip Jarvis, the current President of the Redditch Branch. Kenneth was a founding member of the Royal British Legion Redditch Branch, which was established on 21st September 1921.





Attendees at the dedication of the Jarvis Room, in the Bridley Moor Social Club. Our new permanent home thanks to Will the manager of the club.

Christmas Party & Awards

Our annual Christmas Party and Awards was held on Saturday 6th December in the function room at the Bridley Moor & Batchley Social Club. Music was provided by Melissa Hollick and DJ SARGE The Veteran.





Mia and Tegan who raised over £1800 by completing a sky dive. Chris Bloore presented with a “Maggie Thatcher” bag from the House of Parliament.



There was a buffet that was very well received and plentiful. Will the manager of the Bridley Moor & Batchley Social Club receiving his award.



A good time was had by one and all.



Mayoral Civic Service

A Mayoral Civic Service was held on Sunday, February 1st, at Our Lady of Mount Carmel RC Church to honour the new Mayor, Councillor Joanna Kane. The event welcomed various dignitaries, including mayors from neighbouring areas and beyond, as well as The High Sheriff of Worcestershire, Ian Smith.



Remembrance Day 9th November 2025

Wreaths were laid on the war memorial outside St Stephen's Church by Worcestershire's High Sheriff Mr. Charles Moyle JP, followed by representatives of Redditch Royal British Legion, emergency services, former servicemen and women, Chris Bloore MP, Mayor of Redditch, Councillor Joanna Kane and various leaders of local organisations. Wreaths were also laid by members of the Royal Navy, Army, Royal Air Force, Sea Cadets, Royal Marines Cadets, Air Cadets, Army Cadets, Cubs, Scouts, Brownies, Guides and 93-year-old June Cooke from Bowood Court Care Home.





Armistice Day 11th November 2025



Armistice Day 11th November 2025 was held at the memorial in the Garden of Remembrance on Plymouth Road. The service was led by Reverend Canon Paul Lawlor. Wreaths were laid by, amongst others, Chris Bloore MP, Mayor Joanna Kane and Chairman of The Royal British Legion branch Gerry Marsden.

Poppy Appeal 2025

The Poppy Appeal for 2025 has provisionally raised £ 71,761. A really big thank you to all everyone that helped us raise this wonderful amount of money. A special mention for Paul Stringfellow and Shaun Sloan who raised over £18,000 at Hopwood services.

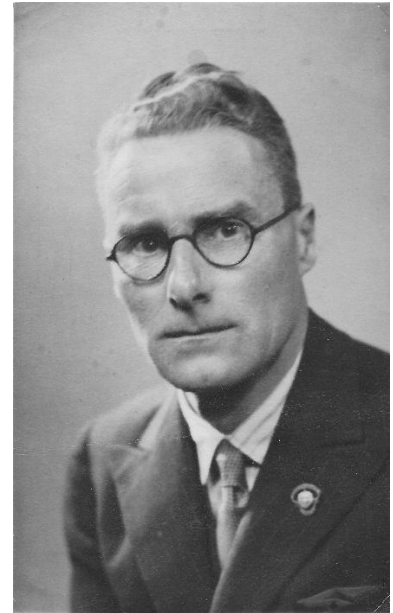


Army and Royal Air Force cadets helped raise money.



Redditch Branch 105th Anniversary

Our branch was founded on 21st September 1921, along with other members, by Kenneth Baylis Jarvis, the father of our current President Philip Jarvis. The club was based in Easemore Road and the land was kindly provided by the Humphries family.



Kenneth as a young before joining the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, at home on leave from the Battle of the Somme in 1916 and Kenneth at the age of 50.

105th Anniversary – 7pm Friday 5th June 2025 at Bridley Moor & Batchley Social Club



RBL
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION
REDDITCH ROYAL BRITISH LEGION
INVITES YOU TO THEIR 105 YEAR
CELEBRATION

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF HOT AND COLD BUFFET,
DANCING AND RAFFLE

FRIDAY 5TH JUNE 2026

Venue: Bridley Moor & Batchley Social Club
Bridley Moor Rd
Redditch B97 6HS

Time: 7PM-Midnight

Ticket Price £15 TICKET NUMBER:

For tickets E-mail: entertainmentcomrbl1@outlook.com



The Branch have attended numerous events to raise awareness of the Royal British Legion and the Branch in Redditch. We wish to thank all our volunteers who gave up their time to run the tombola and speak to the members of the public about what we can offer in our community. Together we raised money to support the Branch and for the Poppy Appeal.

*Thank
you*

Branch Meeting

Members are cordially invited to attend the Branch Meeting at 7:15pm on Tuesday 14th April in the Bridley Moor & Batchley Social Club.

Mayor Civic Dinner – 7:30pm Friday 24th April at Abbey Hotel

D-Day Darlings – 7pm Wednesday 13th May 2025



We will be in attendance for the D-Day Darlings evening in the foyer at the Palace Theatre

Redditch Branch Poppy Appeal fundraising

From 2016 when Gerry became POA Redditch has collected £547,775. In 2025 we collected £71,761. The most for one Branch in Worcestershire.

We need your help so if you would like to volunteer a small amount of time, please contact

redditch.secretary@rbl.community. 

The poppy has been a symbol of Remembrance for over 100 years

The poppy became a symbol of Remembrance and hope for a peaceful future in the aftermath of the First World War. Since 1921 our collectors have been at the heart of the Poppy Appeal. And this year they will be back in local communities across the UK to collect donations that help RBL continue its vital work.



Remembrance Sunday (8th November 2026): Assembly point High Street near Palace Theatre ready for the parade to start at 10:30am. There will be a service outside St Stephens Church followed by a 2-minute silence and wreath laying at 11:00am.

Armistice Day (11th November 2025): There will be a Service and Act of Remembrance commencing at 10:30 at the Plymouth Road Garden of Remembrance.



Join Redditch Branch Royal British Legion

rbl.org.uk

Chairman: Gerry Marsden - Redditch.Chairman@rbl.community
Vice Chairman: Juliet Brunner - Redditch.ViceChairman@rbl.community
Treasurer: Paul Stringfellow - Redditch.Treasurer@rbl.community
Secretary: Mark Evans - Redditch.Secretary@rbl.community
Webmaster: Shaun Sloan - Redditch.Webmaster@rbl.community

