

Our Chairman's message



Welcome to our first issue of 2024, we hope you'll find this as a useful resource for updates, branch developments and committee member appointments in one document or just general content.

For me 2023, I was playing catch-up most of the time, the pace at which this branch has moved into the 21st Century is something I have never seen, a lot of things improved last year, better communication to our members using platforms such as the web site & email, our newsletter, our committee membership increased, so did our branch membership.

2024 looks like it will be more of the same, we now have a Coffee Hub, you'll also be able to follow RBL Mitcham on Facebook and Instagram, who knows will it will slow down, After some positive feedback from our branch members about our newsletter, it will remain quarterly, so if you have a story or something to add in the next issue, please feel free to email it to rblegionmitcham@gmail.com

Enjoy a coffee at our Coffee Hub

At the last AGM held in October 2023, it was announced that RBL Mitcham were going to create a Coffee Hub for the Armed Forces Veterans, Branch Members and passing public. It was seen as a vital project with benefits for those that were seeking somewhere to meet, make friends or just have a coffee.

So as promised, the Branch Secretary made a start on 20th November 2023 by identifying a room at RBL Mitcham that was suitable for such a project, 3 months later, the Coffee Hub has become a reality.

The Grand Opening on Monday 19th February 2024. The opening ceremony was performed by the Mayor of Merton,

Also in attendance were Siobhian McDonagh MP, Local Councillors and from RBL HQ were, Nick Clifton MEO-GLD, Bruce Holborn-Local Campaigns Mgr, Sally Finning-Membership Development Mgr and Angus Watson-PAO SE London. The food was donated by Greggs and supplied by Greggs of Mitcham.



What's on Offer

You can come in, have a freshly brewed filter coffee or tea, there will be biscuits and cake available too, a comfortable, warm place to sit in with either your friends or make friends and enjoy your refreshments.

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Scan the QR code to visit our website



Or find us on Facebook



Royal British Legion - Mitcham

RBL Mitcham enters Social Media

RBL Mitcham have finally entered the social media sector, it took a while but we got there. If you have Facebook and you enjoy keeping up with news and want it instantly, well now you can, specifically created following feedback from our members

Our Facebook page is also linked to our Website and Instagram page. If you wish to join our group, simply apply with your full name, membership number and branch you are registered too, then we'll do the rest.

The Facebook link is:

Royal British Legion - Mitcham

We hope you enjoy using it as much as we enjoyed creating it.

Branch Secretary takes on the Normandy Beaches

On 28th June 2024, and over three days, I'll be cycling in honour through Normandy for the Royal British Legion, marking the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day landings and remembering the sacrifices made by all those who fought in both World Wars.

My journey starts 28th June at Portsmouth, on to the overnight ferry, followed by three days of cycling, ending on 2nd July with the overnight ferry back to Portsmouth. On this fully supported ride along with other riders, I'll be cycling 351 km and tour the five D-Day beaches: **Sword, Juno, Gold, Omaha, and Utah.**

I'll also visit other key historical areas including **Bayeux, Arromanches-les-Bains, Pegasus Bridge, Sainte-Mère-Église** and many more. Joining the cycling group for the trip will be our dedicated historian who will bring the history to life as we venture through the frontlines of the Battle of Normandy.

So please support my event by donating what you can on my Justgiving Page, the link is:

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/normandybeaches2024

or scan the QR Code



RBL Mitcham Committee Members

Chairman – Allan Barley
 Vice-Chair – Ian Munn
 Treasurer – Gary Baker
 Secretary – Paul Picano
 Membership – Joan Henry
 Standard Bearer – David Barley
 Committee – Paul Smith
 Committee – Christine Kelly
 Committee – Sharon Scott



Normandy Beach Landings 6th June 1944



Chair attends Festival of Remembrance



Mitcham Branch Chairman, Allan Barley attended the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance by invitation of the RBL. When the news came through from RBL HQ that he had been invited to represent the RBL Civilians and Poppy Appeal Organisers group at the ceremony, excitement was the order.

The day came when he had to attend the dress rehearsal which ended up to be a long first day followed by an early start for an even longer second day, being told what to do, where to stand which was all part of the preparations, a long way off from what was imagined, according to our Chairman it went like clock work.

Pedal to Paris 2023 Done

Right through July & August, it was training everyday until the start line at Danson House for a 6:00am start cycling to Dover.

Many thanks to all the members of RBL Mitcham that have donated, the money donated will help the RBL to support our Armed Forces Veterans who have fallen on hard times or just having difficulty adjusting to civilian life.



Dates for your Diary

19th October 2024
 RBL Mitcham Annual AGM
 10th November 2024
 Remembrance Day
 11th November 2024
 Armistice Day

RBL Mitcham E-mail for Members

Your RBL Mitcham Branch now has an e-mail address for all the members that wish to e-mail in any concerns, updates, ideas or just general feedback.

The email will be picked up by any of the Committee members and if relevant passed onto the addressed Committee member to action. We hope that our members will make good use of this way of communication.

The e-mail address is:

rblegionmitcham@gmail.com