



# Mitcham Branch Newsletter

Winter 2023

## Chairman's message



Welcome to our final issue of 2023, our Newsletter from RBL Mitcham, we hope you'll find this as a useful resource for updates on services, branch developments and committee member appointments in one document.

This issue will be our last quarterly version of our newsletter, we have now moved to twice yearly as of 2024. Just to remind you, your RBL branch now has a website where you can find up to date news, events and other information regarding RBL Mitcham.

## In this issue

<a href="#">Chairman's Message</a>	1
<a href="#">Armistice Day</a>	1
<a href="#">Remembrance Sunday</a>	1
<a href="#">Normandy Beaches</a>	2
<a href="#">Pedal to Paris Update</a>	2
<a href="#">Dates for your diary</a>	2

## Your RBL Branch has a Website

Scan the QR code



Cut out and keep or email  
[Mitcham.secretary@rbl.community](mailto:Mitcham.secretary@rbl.community)  
For a copy

## The meaning of Armistice Day

Armistice Day officially falls on Saturday 11th November 2023.

In order to allow schools to attend the Armistice Day Ceremony, this will take place on **Friday 10th November**.

The Ceremony will start at 10:50am at the Cricket Green War Memorial, where a Two-Minute silence will be observed and take place at 11:00am.

### Please Note:

**There will be no ceremony on Saturday 11th November.**

### What is Armistice Day

Also known as Remembrance Day, Armistice Day on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November is a day for remembering the millions upon millions of soldiers and civilians killed during the First World War.

The First World War began in 1914, with the assassination of the Austro-Hungarian heir to the throne, Archduke Franz Ferdinand. His assassin was the Serbian extremist Gavrilo Princip, and took place in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. This assassination led Serbia to declare war on Bosnia and Herzegovina, and, because each nation had multiple interlocking alliances with other European nations, it wasn't long before Europe was divided in two.

On one side, there was the Triple Entente: France, the Russian Empire, and the British Empire. On the other, there was the Triple Alliance: the German Empire, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire. As the war progressed, many more nations would join on either side of the conflict, and for four long years, war would rage across the world.

In 1918, after four brutal years of trench warfare in across France and Belgium, Allied soldiers pushed the German troops back, and the German emperor, Kaiser Wilhelm, abdicated the throne.

The German Empire was the last of the Triple Alliance to agree to end the fighting. In November 1918, shortly after the Kaiser stepped down, Germany signed an armistice which ended the war completely.

The Armistice, an agreement to end the fighting of the First World War as a prelude to peace negotiations, began at 11:00am on 11th November 1918.

### Armistice is Latin for to stand (still) arms.

To this day, we mark Armistice Day around the United Kingdom with a Two Minute Silence at 11:00am on the 11th day of the 11th month.



This year Remembrance Sunday falls on 12th November 2023 at 11:00am.

The Ceremony will start from RBL Mitcham at 10:15am with a parade through Mitcham town centre to the Cricket Green War Memorial, where a Two-Minute silence will be observed and take place at 11:00am followed by a ceremony, then with a return parade back to RBL Mitcham.

## Branch Secretary rides the Normandy Beaches

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

My journey starts 28<sup>th</sup> June at Portsmouth, on to the overnight ferry, followed by three days of cycling, ending on 2<sup>nd</sup> July with the overnight ferry back to Portsmouth.

On this fully supported ride along with other riders, I'll cycle 351km 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.

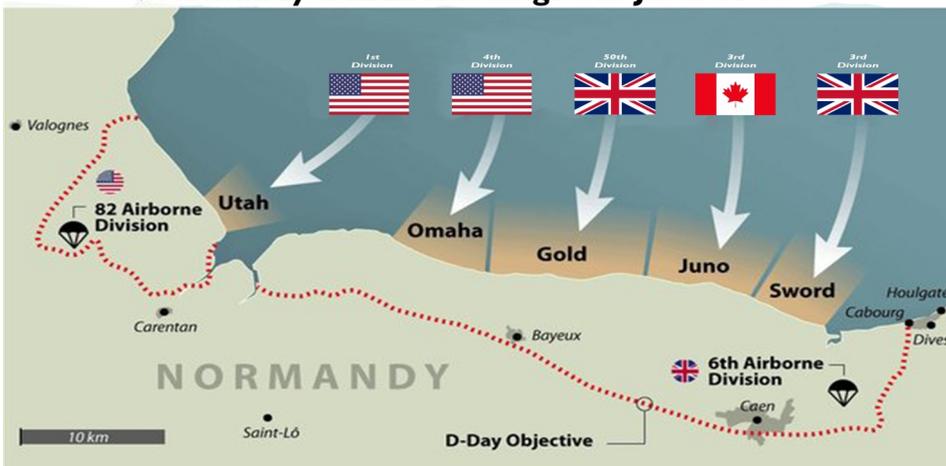
So please support my event by donating what you can on my Justgiving Page, the link is:

[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/normandybeaches2024](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/normandybeaches2024)

or scan the QR Code



**Normandy Beach Landings 6th June 1944**



## Pedal to Paris 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 veterans who have fallen on hard times or just having difficulty adjusting to civilian life.



## RBL Mitcham Committee Members

Chairman – Allan Barley

Vice-Chair – Ian Munn

Treasurer – Gary Baker

Secretary – Paul Picano

Membership – Christine Kelly

Standard Bearer – David Barley

Committee Member – Paul Smith

Committee Member – Joan Henry

## Dates for your Diary

21<sup>st</sup> October 2023

RBL Mitcham Annual AGM

10<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Armistice Day

(allowing schools to attend)

12<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Remembrance Day