**EKVN - RBL REPORT**

**MAY 2023**

**EVENTS**

The main activity since the last newsletter has been the planning of future events, the first of which, a ‘Coronation Lunch’, took place on the 10th May at an appropriately decorated Fox and Hounds. Once again a very enjoyable time was had by all. We were joined by members of the EKWS and the Rector, Rev. Kate McFarlane (who led us in a short prayer for the new King and Queen) together with her husband Stephen.

We are very appreciative of the efforts made by Murray and Feargal in making it such a special occasion, especially the decoration of the front bar. As always the food and service were first class.

On Coronation Day itself, Paul and Rachel Naish were fortunate enough to receive tickets to the stand reserved for charities and volunteers immediately in front of Buckingham Palace. As you will see from his short report and photograph it was a memorable five hours - despite the damp conditions.

Future events in our calendar include a visit to the ‘Heritage Hangar’ at Yeovilton on the 29th June arranged by our Chairman, Nick Wright. This will be an extremely popular event so members are encouraged to respond promptly to the forthcoming notifications to ensure not missing out. On the 2nd July we shall be attending the Drumhead Service at the Fovant Badges.

Mention must be made of the sixtieth anniversary of the end of National Service in 1963, two of our current members were among the two million young men drafted into the service. The anniversary is being marked by a special service at the National Arboretum on the 16th May at which our Chairman, Nick Wright, will accompany the Princess Royal in his capacity as her Naval Equerry.

**POPPY APPEAL**

Fund raising for the Poppy Appeal continues. Roy Halsall has begun his tour of summer events and small amounts (not to be underestimated) raised by the sale of donated old coins and second hand books. The current total for the fundraising year 2023/4 stands at £9,295.

Next Branch Meeting: 6th June, 6.30pm, Fox and Hounds.