Royal British Legion Redditch Branch Summer 24 Newsletter

Dear Members,

Welcome to our Summer newsletter. We have a newly formed committee who are working hard settling into their new roles.

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

Treasurer - Jason Phillimore, Secretary - Mark Evans

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

Standard Bearer(s) - Ian Hart, Simon Hobson

Committee Member(s) - Joe Baker, Paul Stringfellow

Congratulations to Tina Ashcroft who has completed the Branch Community Support training.

If you would like to volunteer to help at any of our fundraising events or indeed have any items that can be used for raffle or tombola prizes, then please get in touch and we will collect them. Donations are always welcome!

Message from our Branch Chairman Gerry Marsden:

“I volunteered to Chair the Branch at Redditch as this was a founding branch of the Royal British Legion. I am grateful to the previous two chairs Jason & Jeff and those before for all their help promoting the Branch. As a son of an ex-serviceman and I have been around military personnel the greater part of my life. I believe in the motto service not self. I welcome any new members and thankful for the new committee we have.”

Visit National Arboretum

80th Anniversary D-Day Celebrations 01 June

Fantastic Day supporting Armed Forces Veterans Breakfast Club and Redditch 80th D-Day Celebrations. The tombola raised £150 for the Poppy Appeal. Thanks for all the donations and all the volunteers help. The event at Redditch Hockey & Rugby Club featured military vehicles, de-activated military weapons, a re-enactment stall, large steam traction engine, the Army Reserves, the Army Cadets, West Mercia Police, Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service and a chainsaw carver.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

80th D-Day Remembrance 06 June

The town's Royal British Legion President Philip Jarvis and Chairman Gerry Marsden met the Mayor Juma Begum and other dignitaries at the Town Hall where the special D-Day 80 flag was raised.

Those gathered then journeyed down to the war memorial at Plymouth Road where a wreath-laying ceremony took place. Among those laying wreaths were Gerry Marsden, the Mayor Juma Begum, 37 Signal Regiment and Labour MP Chris Bloore.

Philip Jarvis gave a brief introduction about the D-Day Landings in Normandy, including the story of Smethwick soldier Dan Brotheridge who was killed on the opening day whilst parachuting behind enemy lines to reach one of the bridges.

After the ceremony, the group marched to the Kingfisher Centre and paraded around there, along with the Church Hill-based 37 Signal Regiment, Army Cadets from Trinity High School, and West Mercia Police officers The event concluded at the war memorial on Church Green where more wreaths were laid.

Prayers were said by Rev Paul Lawlor from nearby St Stephen's Church. Fr Jason from Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Beoley Road, was there to represent the Catholic community. Refreshments were served in the Ecumenical Centre.

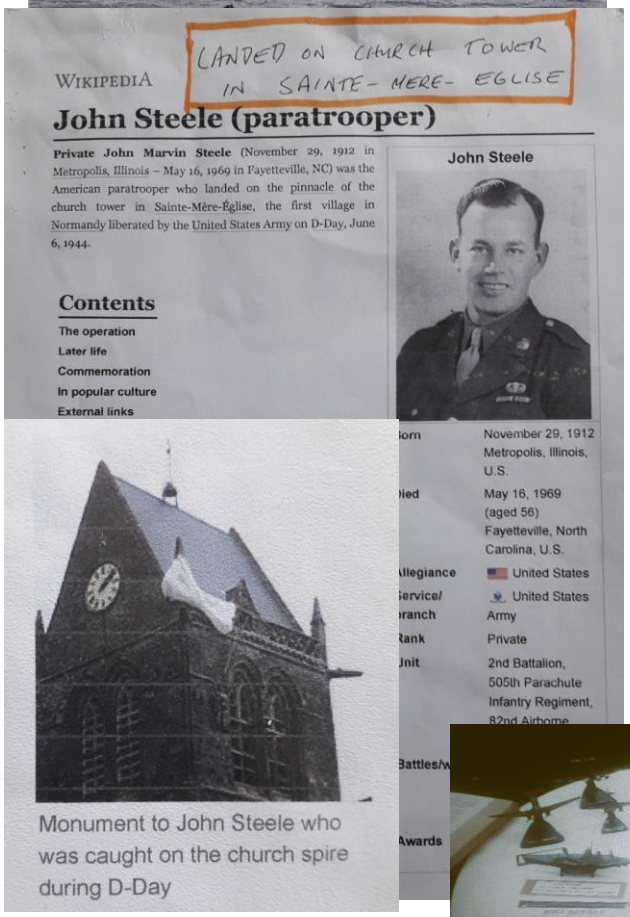
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

80th Anniversary D-Day Presentation in Redditch Library

by Branch President Philip Jarvis

Philip Jarvis and others were at Redditch Library with models of some of the ships involved in the Normandy Landings – the largest air, naval and land operation in military history which began the liberation of Europe.

H.M.S AJAX bombarded the battery at Longues-Sur-Mer and took part in the disarming of two of its 150mm guns and the destruction of a third destroyed by direct hit.



LANDED ON CHURCH TOWER IN SAINTE-MERE-EGLISE

WIKIPEDIA

John Steele (paratrooper)

Private John Marvin Steele (November 29, 1912 in Metropolis, Illinois – May 16, 1969 in Fayetteville, NC) was the American paratrooper who landed on the pinnacle of the church tower in Sainte-Mère-Église, the first village in Normandy liberated by the United States Army on D-Day, June 6, 1944.

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John Steele

Born	November 29, 1912 Metropolis, Illinois, U.S.
Died	May 16, 1969 (aged 56) Fayetteville, North Carolina, U.S.
Allegiance	United States
Service/branch	United States Army
Rank	Private
Unit	2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne
Battles/w	
Awards	

Monument to John Steele who was caught on the church spire during D-Day

OPERATION TIGER.

OPERATION TIGER WAS THE CODE NAME FOR ONE IN A SERIES OF LARGE – SCALE REHERSALS FOR D.DAY,WHICH TOOK PLACE ON SLAPTON SANDS IN DEVON.
APRIL 1944.

COORDINATION AND COMMUNICATION PROBLEMS RESULTED IN FRIENDLY FIRE – DEATHS DURING THE EXERCISE.
A ALLIED CONVOY WAS ATTACKED BY GERMAN E.BOATS RESULTING IN THE DEATHS OF 945 SERVICE MEN.

THE MEMORIAL READS AS FOLLOWS

THIS MEMORIAL WAS PRESENTED BY THE UNITED STATES ARMY AUTHORITIES TO THE PEOPLE OF THE SOUTH HAMS WHO LEFT THEIR HOMES AND THEIR LANDS TO PROVIDE A BATTLE PRACTICE AREA FOR THE SUCCESSFUL ASSAULT IN NORMANDY IN JUNE 1944.

THIS AMERICAN SHERMAN TANK TOOK PART IN THE D-DAY PRACTICE LANDINGS AT SLAPTON BEACH IN 1944 WHERE IT WAS LOST AT SEA AND THERE REMAINED UNTIL ITS RECOVERY IN 1984

ARMOURED VEHICLES AND TANKS WHICH TOOK PART ON D.DAY A SELECTION OF BOTH GERMAN & ENGLISH.

A SELECTION OF AIRCRAFT WHICH WERE USED ON D.DAY.
BOTH GERMAN & ENGLISH.

PILOTS OF LANCASTER BOMBERS WERE GIVEN THE JOB OF DROPPING ALUMINIUM FOIL KNOWN AS WINDOW.THIS GAVE REFLECTED RADAR SIGNALS ON GERMAN RADAR AN INVASION FLEET WAS APPROACHING THIS WAS CARRIED OUT IN THE EARLY HOURS OF JUNE 6TH.

Redditch Pride

Fabulous Day supporting this amazing event in Redditch town centre on Saturday 8th June.

Redditch Borough Council leader and Redditch Branch RBL Committee member, Councillor Joe Baker, added: “PRIDE is an opportunity for everyone to come together and celebrate our town’s diversity. Redditch is a great town and we have so much to offer, this is an opportunity for everyone to see it at its best.”

The event was a colourful mix of family entertainment and celebration of the LGBTQ+ community.

The Branch have attended several events this summer 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.

Upcoming Event

Coffee Morning

Ecumenical Centre

Saturday 5th October

1000-1200

Fundraising Cake Sale High Speed 2 – Simon Hobson

Simon Hobson organised a cake sale at HS2 site and raised an amazing £1716.40. Thanks to everyone at HS2 and of course Simon for this fantastic support and achievement.

Poppy Appeal Volunteers

If you would like to help with fundraising activities, please contact the committee members.

The Royal British Legion is working hard to support the most vulnerable in our society, be it older veterans that we care for, those who suffer from social isolation, or those who are simply overwhelmed by the challenges associated with the cost-of-living crisis.

We can only continue to provide these services with your help.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Redditch Branch Poppy Appeal fundraising

In the past nine years Redditch has collected £340,303.94. In 2023 we collected £44,726.15 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 (10th November 2024): 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. Refreshments, following the parade, are being provided by the Churches at the Ecumenical Centre. Please come and join us.

Armistice Day (11th November 2024): There will be a Service and Act of Remembrance commencing at 10:30 at the Plymouth Road Garden of Remembrance.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Join Redditch Branch Royal British Legion

rbl.org.uk

Chairman: Gerald Marsden - Redditch.Chairman@rbl.community

Vice Chairman: Juliet Brunner - Redditch.ViceChairman@rbl.community

Treasurer: Jason Phillimore - Redditch.Treasurer@rbl.community

Secretary: Mark Evans - Redditch.Secretary@rbl.community

Branch Community Support: Tina Ashcroft - Redditch.BCS@rbl.community

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION