

## Our Chairman's message



Welcome to our Summer issue of our Branch newsletter, 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.

Since our last newsletter, a lot has happened in the Branch as well as to the Branch.

Firstly, I would like to welcome all the members from RBL Croydon, 42 in total, a great welcome awaits them, our Branch Secretary has made contact to each one personally.

The other great things that have happened was D-Day Commemorations in Mitcham Town Centre, we now look forward to our Mitcham Carnival and Armed Forces Week of celebrations

## Armed Forces Week

Armed Forces Day now known as Armed Forces Week in the United Kingdom is an annual celebration in late June to commemorate the service of men and women in the British Armed Forces, this year we started the celebration of Armed Forces Week on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2024 with a Flag Raising ceremony outside the Merton Civic Centre, attended by The Mayor



of Merton, Local Councillors and representatives of the Armed Forces. Armed Forces Day takes place on the last Saturday each June. Armed Forces Day celebrations was on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2024, there was a short ceremony outside Merton Civic Centre.



**ARMED FORCES DAY**  
**SHOW YOUR SUPPORT**

This was followed by a March with a Marching Band, Dignitaries, Cadets and Public, the march route was from Abbotsbury Road, round the Civic Centre then back into Abbotsbury Road where there were stalls and refreshments for all the families to get involved.

Your support for the Armed Forces provides a much-valued morale boost for the troops and their families.

Our Armed Forces couldn't do their job without the incredible support of their family and friends.

You can find out more about what they do at home and around the world by visiting their official websites of the Royal Navy, British Army and Royal Air Force.

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Scan the QR code to visit our website



Or find us on Facebook



RBL Mitcham - The Royal British Legion

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:

**RBL Mitcham - The Royal British Legion**

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

## Branch Secretary completes Normandy Beaches

I cycled in honour through Normandy for the Royal British Legion, marking the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Normandy D-Day landings, remembering the sacrifices made by all those who fought in the battle and never came home.



My journey started 28<sup>th</sup> June at Portsmouth, followed by three days of cycling, ending on 2<sup>nd</sup> July. I cycled 351km and toured the five D-Day beaches: **Utah, Juno, Gold, Omaha, and Sword.**

I also visited other key historical areas around Normandy, they were **Bayeux Memorial, American Normandy Memorial, Pegasus Bridge, Sainte-Mère-Église, British Normandy Memorial** and many more. Joining us for the trip was our dedicated historian who brought the history to life as we ventured through the frontlines from the Battle of Normandy.

You can still donate and show your support 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



### Dates for your Diary

19<sup>th</sup> October 2024

RBL Mitcham Annual AGM

10<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Remembrance Day

11<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Armistice Day

## D-Day Commemorations

On Thursday 6th June 2024, RBL Mitcham held a D-Day event in Mitcham Town Centre. The event was made a success by the people of Mitcham as they were treated to actual D-Day Footage, courtesy of the Imperial War Museum in one tent, the other was our new RBL gazebo, which we were proud to display with donations being accepted.



Top of the bill was our fantastic Bag Pipe player, who drew in the crowds from all corners of the Town Centre, where the public enjoyed the Bagpipes being played.

RBL Mitcham were invited by request, to Langley Oaks Care Home in South Croydon.



Our Standard Bearer, Paul Smith attended and performed his duties with the residents and staff of Langley Oaks, which included the lighting of the eternal lamp during the commemorations.

## 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](mailto:rblegionmitcham@gmail.com)

## RBL Mitcham receives Community Award

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2024, RBL Mitcham received its first award from the Mayor of Merton. The Award Ceremony took place at The Vestry Hall, Mitcham.

The award from the Mayor was for "Services to the Community" and in relation to the creation of the much needed Coffee Hub serving our Veterans, Comrades, Beneficiaries, Members and Public.



The Coffee Hub is open every Wednesday from 11:00 to 15:30, please come and join us, have a cup of coffee or tea, sit and chat, make new friends, we would love to welcome you all.

## Need some advice?

If you're a member of the Armed Forces community, the Royal British Legion can offer you advice and support.

Get in touch - 0808 802 8080

[rbl.org.uk](http://rbl.org.uk)

## 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