**CORONATION DAY 2023**

I was exceptionally fortunate to be successful in the ballot for RBL tickets for the grandstand at the Queen Victoria Memorial on Coronation Day. It meant an early start as Rachel and I had to be in our seats by 0830, nearly two hours before the procession was to leave Buckingham Palace. Unfortunately, the rain started soon after we were seated but, like everyone else, the RBL and ex-military contingent around us were determined to make this a memorable occasion and managed to create a festival atmosphere.

The grandstand had a great view of the Palace and we witnessed the King and Queen Consort pass in the Diamond Jubilee State Coach on their way to Westminster Abbey and then listen to an audio of the service before the magnificent procession on the return journey with thousands of military personnel escorting Charles and Camilla in the Gold State Coach. Finally the Royal Family came out on to the balcony and there was a fly past of helicopters and the Red Arrows. A truly special and memorable day though one cannot deny that it was a pity that the weather was not kinder.

Paul Naish