



## Editorial

Firstly, on behalf of the Communications Team, may I wish all members a very happy, prosperous and above all, healthy, New Year for 2003

A new year stretches ahead of us and we all wonder what it will hold on personal level. One thing, at this time of the year we can all look forward to the arrival of Spring.

Although the wet winter we have had so far has limited what gardening can be attempted at the moment (that's my excuse, anyway), already the daffodil bulbs are five or six inches high and the lilac and other bushes are already full of bud, so the first signs of spring are there – albeit early.

May I just remind you that next month is the start of the campaign to sign up a new member. If you have a friend or acquaintance who you feel would make a useful member of our branch, why not mention the RBL to them and see if they are interested. As a reminder, membership cost is £13.50 for the first year (which includes payment for a lapel badge) and £11 per annum thereafter.

### CONGRATULATIONS

I am pleased to extend our warmest congratulations on behalf of all branch members to Hilary, the daughter of our Secretary Betty Ramsay, on her wedding at Gretna, in Scotland on 21<sup>st</sup> December to Mr. Chris Brazil.

Hilary, we send you and your husband our very best wishes and our sincerest hopes that you will share many, many years of happiness together and you will both sell raffle tickets at the annual dinners!



## Legion Groups

The management Handbook defines a Group as “a convenient association of branches particularly in a large county. It is the basis for mutual support, acts as

a forum and acts as communication link between county and branch. Alternative titles are in use: district, sector, borough branch.”

There are two such Groups in this county: Northwest Leicestershire and Soar Valley. County Chairman, Jim Rowlinson believes there should be more but emphasises that this does not mean another layer of hierarchy or bureaucracy.

It means that in this South Leicestershire area all the six or seven branches would form a Group. Each branch would send representatives to (perhaps) quarterly meetings at which they could discuss how their branches are run. By this means all the best ideas and innovations could be discussed and taken aboard, to everyone's mutual advantage.

It would also be a great boost for all branches in the social area. By making any outings or visits a group undertaking, full coaches, etc., could be assured, and for the smaller branches with too few members for such ventures, it could open new horizons.

All the branches involved in a group would, of course, remain autonomous and a group would have no jurisdiction over its branches.

We should consider how our branch could contribute to, and benefit from, such a group.

### Late News

After weeks of speculation the death watch beetle has been confirmed in the cathedral. During the ceremony the Bishop also confirmed three mice, two bats & a spider.



## The Gardeners' Hymn

All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small;  
All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.

But what we never mention, Though gardeners know it is true,  
When he made the goodies, He made the baddies too.

### Refrain:

All things spray and swatable, Disasters great and small,  
All things paraquatable, The Lord God made them all.

The greenfly on the roses, The maggots in the peas,  
Manure that fills our noses, He gave us all of these.

### Refrain

The fungus on the goose-gogs, The club root on the greens,  
The slugs that eat the lettuce, And chew the aubergines.

### Refrain.

The drought that kills the fuschias, The frost that nips the buds,  
The rain that drowns the seedlings, The blight that hits the spuds.

### Refrain.

The midges and mosquitoes, the nettles and the weeds,  
The pigeons in the greenstuff, The sparrows in the seeds.

### Refrain.

The fly that gets the carrots, The wasp that eats the plums,  
How black the gardener's outlook, Though green may be his thumbs.

### Refrain.

But still we gardeners labour Midst vegetables and flowers,  
And pray what hits our neighbours Will somehow bypass ours.

*With acknowledgements to the St John's Fellowship and thanks to Tom Jeacock for obtaining permission to reproduce the above.*



## Jack Quain

Members may recall that in 1998 and 1999 the branch won the Jack Quain Trophy for Endeavour. This led to Tom Ashmore wondering who was the gentleman who gave this award for County branches but all that he could discover was that Jack Quain was County Secretary after WW2.

Then, a couple of months ago Tom received an e-mail from a lady who having seen the Trophy mentioned on the Branch website, asked, "Can you tell me how and when the trophy came to be created? The reason for my request is that . . . Jack Quain was my grandfather. My father and I know nothing about this trophy and would appreciate any information you have. Thank you in anticipation. Pauline Johnson (nee Quain)"

Although we have been unable to answer her question, Mrs Johnson has kindly sent us photographs and personal details of her grandfather and photocopies of articles which had appeared in the Leicester Evening Mail of 1<sup>st</sup> August 1955, and the Illustrated Chronicle of 31<sup>st</sup> October 1959.

John (Jack) Edwin Quain was born on 6<sup>th</sup> August, 1890, in Leeds, where, prior to WWI, he was a tradesman bricklayer. He enlisted in 1915 into the West Yorkshire Regiment He received a leg wound in the first battle of the Somme in 1916, and spent 15 months recuperating at a Leicester hospital.

In Leicester, as in other parts of the country, a group of men realised the amount of help that

was needed for disabled ex-servicemen. A meeting was held in Northampton Square, Leicester, and resulted in a committee being formed to begin recruitment for a new organisation. It was to be called The Leicester and Leicestershire Disabled Sailors' and Soldiers' Association. This committee, of which Quain was an active member, met in Peake's Bookshop, and thus 29 to 33 New Bond Street, Leicester, became their new home. From here they aimed to form branches of the Association in the villages of Leicestershire.

This Association eventually became affiliated to The National Federation of Discharged Sailors and Soldiers, which was led by Mr. T. F. Lister (*another name well known in RBL circles—Ed.*) who was to become the founder chairman of the British Legion.

Quotes from the newspaper articles include that Quain was "one of the band of stalwarts who founded the British Legion – and founded it in Leicester", that he actually moved the resolution which brought the British Legion into being, that Leicester branch became the No. 1 branch and Lord Haig became its No. 1 member and he was branch secretary from the beginning in November, 1920 and remained in this office until he resigned in 1955.

During his retirement, he was made President of the No. 1 branch, a position he held until his death on 25th November 1960.

On January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1952, he was named in the New Year's Honours List to receive the MBE for his work with the British Legion.

*It would be interesting to know more about the year or so preceding the actual formation of the Legion on 15th May 1921 and the part played by Leicester branch of the NFDSS in bringing about a unified ex-service organisation.. Ed*



## Branch News

**CHRISTMAS DINNER.** 34 members and partners enjoyed another excellent meal at The Countryman. A raffle raised £30 which was sent to the Gurkha Welfare Trust.

**AWARDS.** Entry documents were prepared and submitted for the National Lister Cup and County Jack Quain Trophy, Bob Hart Cup and Ron West Shield.



Hilary & Chris at Gretna

These were supported by the 11-page 3rd Branch Annual Report copies of which will be deposited with MH Library and County Records Office.

**PUB LUNCH** on 14th January at the Coach and Horses was enjoyed by the 16 people who attended.

**BRANCH MEETING.** Bad weather prevented many members from attending and some of the 23 who did left early. However, a few stalwarts did attempt the Quiz.

**COMMITTEE MEETING.** It was good to meet the new CFO, Mark Melaugh and to discuss with him aspects of Welfare provision.

**WELFARE.** Following the CFO's visit and in the light of his comments, a small group met to review the role of Welfare in the Branch and how it should be most effectively carried out. Their recommendations will be put to the

1st October 2001

### OCTOBER

Defence Attaché at Embassy of Ecuador is a Guest of Honour at Annual Dinner.  
George Fleming qualifies as an RBL Independent (accounts) Examiner. Also is runner-up in County Standard Bearers' competition.  
New CFO attends Branch meeting & John Standish gives a talk about the ATC.

### NOVEMBER

Mark Hudson becomes our youngest Chairman for many years.  
Garden of Remembrance recreated with new cenotaph and Legion 11.11.11 flag.  
2nd Remembrance Concert by Harborough Band - £352 for Poppy Appeal.

### DECEMBER

Hot punch & mince pies after Branch meeting—now a tradition!  
Christmas Dinner at *The Countryman*.

### JANUARY

Committee meetings now to be on the Thursday preceding the Branch meeting.  
Pub lunch at *Coach & Horses*.  
5 members attend County Conference.

### FEBRUARY

Coffee Morning raises £273.  
Visit to National Space Centre—snow prevents all but 2 attending.  
Certificates presented to Poppy Appeal organisers at Branch meeting.  
After meeting buffet.  
Ray Tyler, past Editor of *In Touch*, dies.

Another Active Year

### MARCH

New Membership Directory published.  
Chairman & Secretary at County Branch Officers meeting.  
Birthday Dinner at Bull's Head, Clipston. Landlord donates £25 to Poppy Appeal.  
Visit to Jaguar assembly plant with Photographic society.  
First of 3 Sunday Branch "At Home" meetings.  
Special supplement to *In Touch* for 60th anniversary of St Nazaire raid.

### APRIL

New website ([www.in-touch.ukvet.net](http://www.in-touch.ukvet.net)) launched.  
Chairman & Standard Bearer represent Branch at unveiling of Foxtan Lancaster crash Memorial.  
Pub lunch at *Coach & Horses*. Raffle makes £30.

### MAY

Chairman & Secretary attend RBL Annual Conference & receive the Haig Cup.  
Betty Ramsay & daughter Hillary raise £344 in London Poppy Walk  
Collectors and members visit Poppy Factory.  
Last "At Home". Not a successful scheme.

### JUNE

Coffee morning raises £241.  
Branch hosts County Standard Bearers' Annual Parade & Service and provides a buffet for about 100 people.  
Pub lunch at Bull's Head poorly attended.  
Visits to Bletchley Park & the Doncaster Poppy Race Day.  
Standard Bearer in Queen's Jubilee Parade.  
George Fleming co-opted to County Executive committee.  
Branch represented at County half-year conference.  
Mrs Joyce Sadler, Gordon Adnett and Sam Shutt died.

### JULY

Betty Ramsay helps to run County Branch Secretary course  
Tony Johnson's book *Escape to Freedom* published.

30 September 2002

### AUGUST

Standard Bearer selected for Queen's visit to National Memorial Arboretum.  
Haig Cup goes on public display in Council Offices.  
After meeting buffet.

### SEPTEMBER

Poppy Appeal crisis averted. New member Duggie McMeeken made temporary PAO.  
Pub lunch at The Bell, Gumley.  
Large print version of *In Touch* introduced.  
*Memories are made of this*, a 192-page book of stories from *In Touch*, published.

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### DURING THE YEAR

17 new members joined the branch  
4 members died  
Total membership at 30 September 2002—127  
39 women, 33 associate members.

Average attendance at meetings  
Branch - 38 (31%)  
Committee - 10 (67%)

Branch Fund-raising - £ 634  
Poppy Appeal Total at 31/5/02 - £13,846

Ceremonial - Branch Standard Bearer on duty at 2 Royal & 3 other prestigious events, parades, funerals, etc., at this & other branches, a total of 49 times.

Members' achievements -  
2 qualified as Welfare Caseworkers  
1 passed County Recruiting Officers course  
1 had his book published  
2 had academic success - a PhD in Biology and a MA in Education.



The Haig Cup



**ANOTHER BATCH** of *Memories are made of this*, the book some of you have written, has been produced. Copies from Tom Ashmore (MH 433108) @ £6.50.

Don't miss this fascinating collection stories

**LEICESTER MERCURY VISIT.** Ring Tom Ashmore (MH 433108) for details.

**COFFEE MORNING.** Details later, but please start looking out items for the Tombola, Raffle and Bric-a-brac stalls.

**EDINBURGH TATTOO.** Market Harbourough Travel are running a 3-day coach tour, staying at a good hotel in Melrose. Cost including ticket £149 per person. Some members have already booked and seats may still be available, but if you wish to join them contact MH Travel (MH 469137) quickly for details. If you do book please let Bob England know.

**LIFT REQUIRED.** HQ have stated that the Haig Cup has to be returned by 3rd March. If you are travelling to London just before that and would be willing to deliver the cup (in its rather heavy box) to 48 Pall Mall, please ring Betty Ramsay on MH 434923.

### January, 80 Years Ago

Strikes, sabotage and demonstrations throughout the industrial Ruhr have been vigorously resisted by the 100,000 occupying French troops sent to ensure Germany complies with the reparations imposed at the Treaty of Versailles. Commerce and industry have come to a halt and the rate of inflation is increasing rapidly.



## Diary

Reminders for January and February & some other dates to keep free

- 25 Jan County Annual Conference @ Wigston
- 6 Feb Branch Committee
- 12 Feb Branch Meeting & Buffet
- 18 Feb Visit to Leicester Mercury - to be confirmed
- 20 Mar 80th Anniversary of Branch formation
- 21 Mar Branch 80th Anniversary Dinner
- 29 Mar Coffee Morning—Harborough Theatre
- 4 Apr RNA Spring Dance
- 24/26 May RBL Annual Conference
- 3/5 Aug Trip to Edinburgh Tattoo
- 3 Oct Autumn Dinner (to be confirmed)
- 17 Oct RNA Trafalgar Day Dinner
- 25 Oct Coffee Morning—Harborough Theatre
- 8 Nov Remembrance Concert—Baptist Church
- 12 Nov Branch AGM

### Meetings

Branch meetings are held on the **Second Wednesday** of each month at **7.30 pm** in the downstairs Function Room, Conservative Club Building, Fairfield Road, Market Harbourough.

The next meeting is on 12th February and will be followed by a buffet.

The Branch Committee meets on the **Thursday preceding the branch meeting in the upstairs committee room at the Conservative Club**



## The Royal British Legion



Reg. Charity 219279

## Market Harbourough Branch



Founded in 1923

# In Touch

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