

For Your Diary

- 1st Dec.** On Big Dial Radio (106.8 FM) at about 12.15, an interview with Peter Wilson & Connie Halsall.
- 9th Dec.** 7.30pm Branch meeting (see p17)
- 12th Dec.** 11.30am Civic Reception & Presentation of Légion d'Honneur to Robert Cramp (see enclosure)
- 16th Dec.** 12.00 Xmas Lunch.
The Countryman, Great Bowden.
Ring Tony Johnson (MH440501) for details or to book.
- 13th Jan.** 7.30pm Branch Meeting
- Watch this space for details of the exciting programme of events being planned for 1999

CHINA and GLASSWARE SPECIALISTS
WHITEMORES
opposite the Parish Church and Old Grammar School
Market Harborough
Phone 462945

Wedgewood • Aynsley • Crown Derby
Doulton • Uadro/Nao • Caithness Glass
Swarovski Crystal • Masons Ironstone
Royal Scot Crystal • Lilliput Cottages
Coalport • Portuncion

Continued from page 13

Armistice Day Here in Market Harborough, a simple wreath laying ceremony at our Memorial in Welland Park was followed on The Square by a well attended Act of Remembrance in which The Last Post & Reveille were beautifully played by a Harborough Band soloist. The Two Minutes silence was very well respected by the public.

Once again we are most grateful for the help and support of the Police on the 11th and on Remembrance Sunday .

Mr B His & Hers

Hair Fashions

14 St. Mary's Road
Market Harborough
Tel: (01858) 464308

APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE

PET FOODS & GARDEN SUPPLIES



J. E. MARTIN
MKT HARBOROUGH
Tel: 01858 462751

We support
The Royal British Legion

Meetings

Regular 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 Harborough.

At the next meeting, on **9th December**, after the usual short business session, there will be a talk by Tony Johnson on setting up and running a Police Regional Serious Crime Squad .



Reg. Charity No. 219279

The Royal British Legion Market Harborough Branch 1923 - 1998



In Touch

Issue 16

November, 1998.

Editor -- Bernard Halsall
22 Welland Court, Stamford Close,
Market Harborough, LE16 9ED.
Tel: 01858 465314

Editorial

For the past two years, Dick Fulford has been our hard working Editor, and under his guidance **In Touch** has grown in distribution as well as in content. I am certain that all members will join me in thanking Dick for a job well done and wish him a happy retirement. I hope that he will put pen to paper from time to time so we may enjoy more of his stories.

Letters to the Editor on any subject and other contributions will be warmly welcomed although this does not guarantee publication!

Thus, this issue has fewer contributions from member than usual, not through lack of items submitted, but because there is so much to write about what has been happening in the Branch. So active has the Branch been that "1997/98 - An Active Year" could only just be squeezed onto three pages. The AGM always produces news and the names of your new Committee and Office Holders are duly reported. We also bring you up to date with the Poppy Appeal in a note from the Organisers. We did find room for another of Jack Stimpson's poems of the Seasons and for a tale from a civilian Hotspur.

The Diary page has fewer firm dates than usual and more "details later". However, one event is fixed - the Civic Reception and presentation to Robert Cramp of the Légion d' Honneur. Your invitation to take part in this great occasion is included with this Newsletter. Time is short, so if you wish to attend, you must reply by 7th December.



The Three Swans Hotel

*A unique, superbly renovated 600 year old coaching inn
The perfect visiting place...*

- ◆ Ideal for a comfortable overnight touring stop - even better for a longer stay.
- ◆ Morning coffee, lunches and teas in either the Conservatory or Lounge Bar, with courtyard dining this summer.
- ◆ Elegant silver service restaurant awarded AA rosette for good food and wine.
- ◆ Attractive function rooms and private dining rooms for meetings and celebrations.

High Street, Market Harborough, Leics LE16 7NN
Phone 01858 466644 Fax 01858 433101

MOWERS

CROMWELL MOWERS

Garden Machines Specialists
Sales-Service-Spares

FREE professional advice, warranty work undertaken, all work guaranteed, collection & delivery.



5% discount to RBL members on all purchases, on production of membership card.

33 - 35 St. Mary's Road
Tel: (01858) 467589

The County Jewellers

WATCH, CLOCK & JEWELLERY
SALES & REPAIRS

OUR SPECIALITY IS TO CREATE
YOUR OWN DESIGNER JEWELLERY

56 High Street
Market Harborough
Tel: (01858) 462773

In Touch

**Market
Place**



We thank all the local Businesses which support us by paying for advertising space in this Newsletter.

R.D. JEACOCK & SONS LTD.

Established 1955

20 Covenry Rd., Mt Harborough Tel: 01858 463092

TV - VIDEO - AUDIO - HI FI

Authorised Main Dealers for

Panasonic

SONY

J.V.C.

ROBERTS

FRANK GILBERT'S

for all your

HOUSEHOLD ESSENTIALS

**HOUSEWARE &
COOKWARE**

Specialists

50 HIGH ST., MARKET HARBOROUGH

Tel: 01858 462148

*Service and Products
designed for YOU*



**MARKET
HARBOROUGH**
BUILDING SOCIETY

Traditional values in a changing world

Welland House, The Square,
Market Harborough, Leics. LE16 7PD.

Tel: (01858) 468244

Member of the Building Societies Association

1998 Poppy Appeal

A note from Peter Wilson & Dick Fulford.

Our Poppy Counting House has just reported yet another successful Poppy Appeal period.



In Market Harborough and the Bowdens we collected £7076.81 for poppies and crosses, very close to last year's £7082.91. The villages did better than before and Ken Stimpson has banked £661.17 compared to £636.44 in 1997.

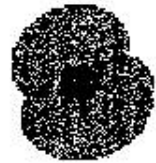
The grand total will not be available for some time as wreath and other donations take a while to come through, but early indications suggest a result at least as good as last year's.

Our dedicated band of helpers and collectors are warmly congratulated. Their hard work is greatly appreciated.

Generous Market Traders

Once again the stall holders in the Market Hall paid the rent for our Poppy Appeal stall for both the Friday and the Saturday. This is a gesture which is greatly appreciated and is equivalent to a generous donation to the Appeal. Traders, we thank you.

To officially record our thanks, the Secretary of the Market Traders Association was presented with a certificate of appreciation, a copy of which was displayed on our stall.



Remembrance, 1998.

Andrew Marriott's excellent organisation produced a Parade and Service in Market Harborough most worthy of our 75th Anniversary year. The Parade was under the command of RSM Dave Harrauld with the ATC Band leading the more able members of the RNA, RAFA & our own branch and contingents from the Police, Fire Service, St John's Ambulance, Red Cross, Cadet Forces and Scouts.

The very well attended Service in St. Dionysius Church was conducted by Rev Chris Moody, lessons were read by our Connie Halsall and Andrew Marriott and an excellent sermon was given by Canon Treanor who from the pulpit, thanked the members of the Harborough Band for their most beautiful and moving playing of the Last Post and Reveille.

These same stirring sounds were heard again at the wreath laying ceremony on the Square.

In the villages

In Church Langton, Rev Keith Shepherd took the well attended service at which Cubs and Brownies were represented. Lt. Col. Donald Jeffrey, OBE, RE read the Act of Homage and wreaths were laid by Mrs Pam Henderson and ex Japanese POW Maurice Kinmonth.

The Service in Lubenham is held by their War Memorial where this year, not only did the Harborough Band play the Last Post and Reveille, they also accompanied the Hymns.

In the past our WW1 Veteran, Robert Cramp has read the Act of Homage and laid a wreath at the Hallaton Memorial, but this year he was not well enough to do so. However, their kindly vicar with a few of his parishioners held a short service in Robert's house.

Branch News

October Lunch. A record turnout of 22 people showed that Tony Johnson's two-monthly social get-together is still popular. Most of those present put down their names for the Christmas Lunch which had been arranged for 16th December, again at "The Countryman", Great Bowden. See page 16 for details.

Husbands Bosworth Annual Dinner. It is interesting that the reason given by two of our members for not being able to attend was not being able to get baby-sitters - an indication that we do indeed have some young members! Whether being baby-sitters prevented others going is not known but the result was that our branch was very poorly represented, with only four people attending. This is a pity, especially as our neighbours fielded twice that number at our Anniversary Dinner.

New Service (Welfare) Committee. It is a rule that the Service Committee of a Branch has to be elected at the first meeting of the Branch Committee after the AGM. The result this year is that Ken Purdy remains as Welfare Officer (in RBL parlance, Services Committee Secretary), and he is supported by Charles Freer and Tom Jeacock. If you know of any ex-service person or dependant who needs help or advice please contact one of this welfare team. Their phone numbers are:-

Charles Freer	MH 467167
Tom Jeacock	MH 466829
Ken Purdy	MH 440623



The Annual General Meeting

The Legion year runs from 1st October to 30th September and each Branch is required to hold its AGM within two months of year-end, i.e. before the end of November. In 1997 we were a bit naughty and did not have the meeting until 8th December. This year we made it in time by

"...the busiest period in the Branch calendar."

substituting it for what would have been the November Branch meeting. This has meant that preparations for the meeting came at the time of the Poppy Appeal and Remembrance, the busiest period in the Branch calendar. The Treasurer had even less time for preparing year-end accounts if the Committee was to discuss them before the AGM. Nevertheless, it would seem sensible to adhere to this year's formula in future years, especially as there could be difficulty if one meeting was held on a different day of the month from all the others.

So what happened this year? Four things will have struck those coming into the room just before the meeting opened.

"..a very good attendance"

First, they will have noticed a shortage of seats in the main body of the room and found themselves behind the pillars at the side. Yes, there was a very good attendance. Then they will have noticed the white clothed tables bearing foil covered dishes heralding later eats. At the far end of the room they will have seen a large display screen (see pages 5 to 7 for an explanation). Fourthly, and most eye-catching of all, beyond the "Top table" stood our

Top Swap & other Changes

One interesting result of the Elections at the AGM, is that Chairman and Vice Chairman exchanged office. Tom Ashmore had said that he did not wish to stand for re-election and Connie Halsall was elected unopposed to the Chair. Two members had been nominated for Vice Chairman and Tom was elected after the necessary ballot.

Stan Snow stood down from his position as a Vice President but as nobody was nominated to replace him, Ken Stimpson remains the sole bearer of that title.

Andrew Marriott did not wish to be re-elected as Honorary Secretary. The Office was not contested and Betty West, the only nominee, bravely accepted the duties of this responsible position. The unanimous support shown by members should have removed any doubts she might have had because she had so recently joined the branch and was an Associate member.

Two Committee members also declined to serve again, Dick Fulford and Bernard Halsall. Nine nominations were received so a ballot was required to fill the seven places.

Thus the full line-up with phone numbers is:-

The Office Holders

President	Peter Wilson	464585
Vice President	Ken Stimpson	545820
Chairman	Connie Halsall	465314
Vice Chairman	Tom Ashmore	433108
Secretary	Betty West	434923
Treasurer	George Fleming	462711

The Committee

The Officers ex-officio and

Gordon Adnett	466533
John Cox	434983
Charles Freer	467167
Mark Hudson	469527
Tom Jeacock	466829
Tony Johnson	440501
Jock Stuart	431850

As is usual, the meeting also elected as

Standard Bearer	George Fleming
Deputy Standard Bearer	John Cox

Other appointments and responsibilities are not decided at the AGM but by the Committee. Details will be given in future issues of **In Touch** and **In Touch, Too**.

Urgent Message

from Membership Secretary, George Fleming.

Your Subscription of £6.50 was due on 1st October. If you have paid, thank you. If you have not, please do so without delay otherwise your membership may lapse. Cheques or Postal Orders should be made payable to The Royal British Legion. Cash should not be sent through the post. During my absence on holiday, please post or deliver your payment to Tom Ashmore, 9 The Pastures, MH. If you have any problem with payment ring Tom on MH 433108.



Autumn

Today the leaves began to fall
and I heard the huntsman's distant call.
The morning mist crept stealthily away
like a ghost from the night travelling into day.



The Pampas dance gently in the breeze
displaying their beauty with consummate ease.



The last Rose of Summer still stands to remind
of the beauty to come when Spring is behind.

Chrysanthemums are each showing its lovely head
and so all in the garden is not yet dead,
but of course there are still the Michaelmas Daises
standing proud and erect with their many faces.



Blackberries glisten in the early
morning dew

waiting to be garnered by the discerning few.

Hips and haws paint the hedges a glowing
red



Nature's bounty for the Winter ahead.

Mushrooms appear as if by chance;

Platforms for the fairies on which to dance.

Swallows dive around making ready to
leave



and depart from that nest just under the eave.

The Squirrels are chasing backward and forward
gathering nuts for their winter hoard,

but where will the rest of the wildlife go?

I do not know! I do not know!



J. R. Stimpson

Company Car

by Hotspur

"They're all daft but thee and me" is part of an old Lancashire saying, as the following story confirms.

I was given the task of training a young man with a view to him joining the management team at some future date. He was a pleasant fellow, but prone to lapses of concentration from time to time. However, in due course he was given a company car having made satisfactory progress, although there was still a question mark about his ability to keep his mind on his work.

Although we did not start work before 8 am, I was usually in the office by 7.40 - probably the result of 6½ years Army training! One morning my phone rang about 7.50 am.

"Oh! Peter here", said the voice of my trainee.

"Yes Peter", I replied.

"My car is stuck in Wigston".

"What do you mean by stuck?"

"The doors are locked, but the keys are inside". In the 1970's this was possible if you were not very careful getting out of the car.

"I stopped to get some cigarettes", he continued.

"Leave it then and walk in", I instructed him.

"I can't do that" he said. "The engine is still running" - and then before I could say anything else he added, "and I'm on double yellow lines".

I managed to get the garage chap out before the police got there!

Twenty years and this same fellow was running his own business. Such is life!

Standard to give a feeling of unity and pride in the Legion and Branch to which we all belong.

A rather amusing detail which some will have noticed was that a ceiling tile had to be lifted slightly to allow the pole to stand upright. However, this did not lessen the dignity and symbolism of the Standard!

WARNING!!

Do not suggest that a couple of inches be removed from the bottom of the pole lest George has you shot at dawn for treason!!

The RBL "Handbook for Ceremonial and Services" sets a procedure for the admission of new members to a branch. It is formal, wordy and some might say embarrassing. It has not been followed in recent years, if ever, in this branch, where there has been little more than, "We are pleased to welcome Mr (Mrs or Miss)..... as a new member".

A pleasing element of ceremonial was

...welcomed as fellow members...

introduced at this meeting by George Fleming, as Membership

Secretary, presenting Badges to recently joined Betty West and Tam Mc Shane. Applause from the floor signified that they were welcomed as fellow members of the branch.

There was more applause when Peter Wilson, in thanking all who had given generously of their time helping with the Poppy Appeal, specially praised the enormous amount of work done by Renie and Dick Fulford.



1997/98 - An Active Year

It is customary at the AGM, for the President or the Chairman to give a review of Branch achievements during the preceding October to September. With so much to mention, this time spoken words were largely replaced by a visual display for those present to examine as they enjoyed the after-meeting buffet. If you were not at the meeting or were too busy with chat or "nosh", here is a reminder of An Active Year.

Poppy Appeal - £10,241 a record total, thanks to 50 volunteer collectors, 109 "static" (business, etc.) collection points in town, very good support from the villages and wreath and other donations.

Remembrance Parade & Service well attended

Armistice Day. Wreath laying ceremonies at Welland Park & at the Memorial Gates. 2 minutes silence well observed by the Public.

Welfare 11 cases referred, 1 withdrawn, 1 outstanding, 9 people helped.

Events for Members Xmas Lunch, 3 pub lunches, day outing on the canal. Visit to the Edinburgh Tattoo.

75th Anniversary Celebration

Branch Photos & Insignia Presentation
Museum Exhibition

Band Concert

Thanksgiving Service - 20 branches represented

Presentation of Shield to Toledo Sister Unit

Presentation of Tumblers to all Members

New Logo designed and used.

Branch Meetings Date & Time changed to 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm
Social activities introduced included Talks by Tony Johnson, Dave Greenway (RBL R.O.), Mark Hudson; Collectors' evening, Photo Competition, Quiz, Games, Buffets, friendly, informal drinks and chat. Attendance increased.

Committee Meetings are now held monthly and deal with most Branch business.

Membership 11 new members (bringing total to 100), 4 resigned, 1 died (Ken Dickins).
Survey of members' views of meetings.
Directory of Members produced.
Joining fee introduced (£2.50 covers cost of Badge).

In Touch and In Touch, Too still much enjoyed. Issues 15 and 7 reached.

Gifts & Donations

£250 Band Concert sponsorship from Cleco.
£125 for Jewels of Office for President and Chairman from an anonymous donor.

£50 for **In Touch** from Carnival Committee.
£40 for Open Harboro' from Big Dial Radio.
An Album of VE Day First Day Coin Covers & a RBL 75th Anniversary Collectors' Plate from Mr Robert Tallett.

Modifications to the Branch Altar Cloth by its original donor, Mrs Jeffery.

Various small sums from members.

Sadness & Respect

The Branch was represented at the funerals of Arthur Monk, Husbands Bosworth Branch
Eric Buswell, RNA Chaplain
Ken Dickins, Branch Member.

The Branch Standard is carried at the funeral of any ex-service person when so requested.

Branch Internet Web Site. Launched in April, won International Award, attracted over 400 "visitors" in its first 5 months.

Public Awareness & Fund-raising

Participation in MH Carnival (Tombola successful despite dreadful weather) and Open Harborough (poor attendance).

Two Coffee Mornings - Over £200 for Branch Funds and £225 for the Sir Andrew Martin Trust for Young People.

Poppy Appeal, Remembrance Day, Armistice Day, 75th Anniversary Exhibition, Concert, Service (see above).

News, Pictures and Letters in Local Press.
Leaflet "About the Legion" / "Market Harborough Branch" revised and displayed.
Our Web Site linked to many others.

External Contacts & Communication

The branch was represented at:-
County Standard Bearers' Association meetings, drills, parades and competition;

County Annual & half-year Conferences (talk given on our Newsletters);
Husbands Bosworth Branch meetings,

Annual Dinner and Flower Show;
Lutterworth Branch New Standard Dedication Parade and Service;

Battle of Britain Service & Wings Appeal;
Council of Voluntary Services (CVS)

meetings about Proposed Community Building & Shop Mobility Scheme;
MH Millenium Committee meeting;
HDC Chairman's Cheese and Wine Party & also her Civic Service at Lutterworth.

Informal contacts with organisations in which individual members are involved.

Through the Internet, contact with RBL HQ, County Office & Branches and organisations and individuals world-wide.