



In Touch, Too

The Market Harborough Branch Bi-Monthly News Sheet

Reg'd Charity No. 219279

Issue 2

October 1997

HELLO AGAIN!

I now work on the principle that the absence of disapproval is a sign of approval and on that basis here is the second issue of the News Sheet, *In Touch, Too*. However, if we are sensibly to judge if it justifies the Branch funds which it requires, we need to know if you find it useful.

To help keep costs low, Andrew Marriott has found a cheaper source of printing and he has offered to deliver (on his Mk I Bike!) to all members in town. Two or three advertisers would make it nearly self-financing.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The new Membership Year started on 1st October. Those of you who have paid your Subscriptions, thank you. If you have not yet done so, please send your £6 to George Fleming, 11 Watson Avenue, Mkt Harboro', LE16 9NA. Your Membership Card will then be sent to you. Enclosing a stamped self addressed envelope will save Branch funds. Prompt payment will save the cost of a reminder. Paying by Direct Debit saves you having to do anything! (Get a form from George).

FUTURE MEETINGS

Please note that the downstairs function room in the Conservative Club Building is no longer available to us on a Thursday and in future Branch meetings will be held on the second **Wednesday** of each month. Thus the next two meetings are on 12th November and 10th December (the AGM). We regret any inconvenience this may cause to those who may find it difficult to attend on a Wednesday, but hope that we may soon see others for whom Thursday was unsuitable. Do your best to get to the AGM, the most important meeting of the year and your best chance to influence how your branch is run and who you want to run it.

POPPY APPEAL

I have to admit that I had never given much thought to the Branch's involvement in the Poppy Appeal. Recently, two things brought home to me the size of the task. Calling at the house of our Poppy Appeal Organiser, Peter Wilson, I was confronted by a mountain of cardboard cartons almost filling the front porch. Peter's order had come from the Poppy Factory. Two weeks later the mountain had become a large hill in the living room and another in the dining room! Then I sat in on a meeting when

Peter & Renee & Dick Fulford were planning how to convert those hills into trays of poppies distributed to the 109 businesses and 50 collectors they had persuaded to have them. Ken Stimpson would again take care of the villages. We had lost some collectors and helpers from last year, some areas of the town were not covered. More help was needed. . **More help is needed.**

At the Branch meeting on 9th October a few volunteers answered the call for help with distribution, House to House & Street Collecting and with manning the market stall on 8th & especially 7th November.

More help is still needed.

If you can help or can persuade someone (member or not) to help, please ring Dick Fulford on MH 431515.

The Legion's welfare commitments are still growing and it is the Poppy Appeal which raises over half the Legion's income. It is up to each of us to see that the money keeps coming in. One day any one of us may need Legion help.

THE POPPY GAME

Have you yet seen the new RBL Poppy Appeal scratch card? 5 million have been printed and are available until April, at many Post Offices, shops, and from Littlewoods Pools Collectors. Cards cost £1, of which 20p goes to the RBL, with a 1 in 5 chance of a prize (between £1 & £50,000). A Branch may buy packs and for every 100 cards sold receives £10 for branch funds. Should we have them? Let me

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

In Market Harborough, the annual observance will take the same form as in previous years with a parade to the Parish Church, a service and a short Wreath Laying Ceremony. RSM Dave Harrold has again kindly agreed to act as Parade Marshall. The Parade will form up in the Commons Car Park ready to move off at 10.15am. I hope that all members fit enough to march will do so. Others wishing to attend the Service should be in their seats by 10.30. Medals should be worn.

The Service will be conducted by the Rector, Rev. Chris Moody, with the sermon being given by Rev. Brian Pervis, of the Congregational Church.

After the Service members of the congregation are invited to follow the parade to the Town Square where wreaths will be laid on the War Memorial.

The event is really a Civic, not a Royal British Legion, occasion although the central role played by the RBL is emphasised in the order of the Parade and in the form of the Service. The organisation is undertaken by the Branch, the brunt of the considerable amount of work falling on the Branch Secretary.

No doubt, members living in the villages will wish to attend their own local Services and Ceremonies and may well be involved in their preparation. Wherever we are on Sunday, 9th November, we will be commemorating those who gave their lives in the service of their country in Peace as well as War.

We Will Remember Them.

11-11-11

The Legion had considerable success last year in persuading the general public to "Pause to Remember". We can all help to re-establish this simple act of respect and remembrance into our national culture by our own example.

In the town, maroons will be fired, traffic will be halted and many shops and businesses will observe the two minutes silence. You are invited to join other Members on the Town Square in a brief ceremony which will include the playing of the Last Post and Reveille. Again, medals should be worn.

INSURANCE

HQ have reminded branches that members and others when "on duty" for the Legion are normally covered for Personal Accident by the RBL's overall Insurance Policy. Thus, for example, the Legion would make a claim on behalf of someone injured whilst collecting for the Poppy Appeal.

75TH ANNIVERSARY

The 20th March, next sees the 75th birthday of Market Harborough Branch. To celebrate the anniversary year it is hoped to arrange a number of events during 1998 to interest and involve the public as well as members. Tom Jeacock is currently looking at the feasibility of several interesting ideas. If you have a suggestion for an event which would enhance the standing of the Branch, encourage the intake of younger members and project the idea that ours is an organisation for the future not just of the past, then get in touch with Tom (MH 466829) or myself. Let

REMINDERS

25th October. RAFA Coffee Morning, 9.30 to 12. Harborough Theatre.

25th October. Harborough Band Centenary Concert. 7.30pm MH Parish Church. Tickets from Harborough Building Society.

27th October. Poppy Appeal House to House collections start.

Help is still needed. See page 1

4th, 7th & 8th November. Poppy Appeal Street Collections.

Help is still needed. See page 1

7th & 8th November. Poppy Appeal Market Stall.

9th November. Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service. See this page for details.

11th November. Ceremony in town Square to observe 2 minutes silence.

Wednesday, 12th November. Branch Meeting 8pm in Conservative Club downstairs function room. See page 1.

13th November. Concert by the Band of the Grenadier Guards. 7.30 pm Derngate Theatre, Northampton. Details from John Cox, MH 434983.

Wednesday 10th December. Annual General Meeting 8pm in Conservative Club downstairs Function Room.

100 NOT OUT!

A few weeks ago, following an introduction by John Cox, I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Charlie James whose 100th birthday picture in the Harborough Mail you may have seen. He joined the Army in 1916, served in the Royal Artillery, first in Ireland and then in France. On behalf of members I sent him a birthday card and a small present of his favourite Cadbury Milk Chocolate bars for which he sends his thanks to the Branch.

In Touch, Too is written and produced by

Tom Ashmore, Branch Chairman, 9 The Pastures, Market Harborough, LE16 9EA. Tel: 01858 533108

Comments, suggestions & (constructive) criticism welcomed.