



In Touch, Too

that the newslet-



The Market Harborough Branch Bi-monthly News Sheet

Issue 5

April 1998.

On the Lighter Side

Following the success of the light-hearted Quiz at the March meeting, this month's "After Business" session was equally good fun. The interesting assortment of old group and individual photos provoked such comments as "Who was that good looking sailor?" and made for quite a difficult competition. Joan McMillin proved to be the most skilled in matching old pictures to present day members and so won first prize. Equal second prize winners were Joan Ashmore, Nora Callender and Dick Fulford who agreed to share their bottle of wine - at a date to be arranged! Stan and Mrs Snow had kindly donated three prizes, the third being awarded to the person with the lowest score - "the good looking sailor", Jim O'Brien!

The May Competition

Something a bit different next time (13th May) - a Collectors' evening. Most people collect (or just accumulate) items, often of little financial value, which interest them and which can intrigue others. Bring along a collection of items which could win a prize for being the most unusual, the most amusing or the best arranged or presented. Your display should either be small enough to fit on a 30" x 24" table, be on its own stand, able to stand against a wall or on a chair.

Here are a few ideas - Picture postcards, Cigarette cards, Stamps, Beer mats, Mugs, Plates, Thimbles, Coins, Medals, Models, Books, Pictures (but there will not be facilities for hanging them), or just an odd mixture of bits and pieces from the loft, shed or garage.

Buffet

As part of the Collectors' event, there will be a simple Australian-Style Buffet. This is one where each person brings along a few eatables which are put out on tables and which everyone shares.

Feedback

What conclusions can we draw from the Questionnaire you were all sent with the last issue of ***In Touch, Too*** ? First and most important is that only half of you bothered to complete and return the forms. To those who did, thank you! To those who did not, shame on you!! I hear from other Branches and other organisations of apathy amongst their members and we seem to be affected by the same malaise. Why?

From the replies we did have we know that it is not apathy which prevents some people attending meetings: ill health, deafness, other priorities, unsuitable time or location, a general dislike of meetings. It is for such members

ters are produced.

Of course, those who come to meetings also need the newsletters and want them to continue. But what of the silent half of the membership? How are we to know if the time and money spent on their behalf is not just wasted? They pay their annual subscriptions and so must want to remain Legion members. What puzzles me is, why?

At least we have had some positive feedback on what people want from meetings: more social activities, shorter and better controlled business sessions, more to interest and encourage younger people and better procedures to welcome new members and make them more quickly feel part of the Branch.

Some of these points had been anticipated and changes put in place. The introduction of monthly meetings of the Committee has allowed more "business" matters to be dealt with outside the Branch meetings, the three "after business" events have been well supported and the Chairman has received training in the use of the gavel! More still needs to be done for new and especially younger members. Let us all try to make the Branch one which we enjoy and of which we proud.

A Generous Gift

The Branch has been presented with two gifts for its archives: a limited edition Collectors' Plate, called "Field Poppy", in a Series entitled "In Flanders Fields" by Margaret Stevens, F.S.B.A. and a set of 13 Coin First Day Covers known as "The History of World War II", in a Presentation Album. The stamps, covers and specially minted coins were produced to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of D-Day and feature some of the Allied Commanders and scenes recalling the historic landings.

The donor, Mr R H Tallett, has expressed the wish that these items should be available for branch members to see and they will be on show at the Collectors' Evening and subsequently by request.

And from the Branch

To mark the 75th Anniversary of the Branch, John Cox designed and has had made a commemorative heraldic shield featuring the old RBL logo and the Market Harborough old Grammar School symbol on a Legion Blue background and separated by two diagonal yellow lines. Scrolls on the dark oak mount, above and below the shield, are engraved, "The Royal British Legion" and "Market Harborough Branch 1923 - 1998", respectively.

The shield is to be presented to the Conn-Weissenberger Post of the American Legion, our Sister Unit in Toledo, Ohio.

If you are interested in owning a copy of this handsome shield, please contact John Cox (MH 434983).

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Your comments are welcome

"Sincerely Yours"

is the appropriate title of a series of commemorative plates featuring the War-time songs of the Forces Sweetheart, Vera Lynn. At a ceremony held at the Legion Village on 30th March, National Chairman, Graham Downing, presented Dame Vera with a copy of the first plate in the series, "The White Cliffs of Dover". For each plate sold, the distributors, Bradford Exchange, will make a donation to RBL funds.

Golf

During the next few months matches will be held leading up to the 1998 RBL Championship in Birmingham in October. It is about time the name Market Harborough appeared at Legion events, so if we have any keen golfers in the branch, Tom Jeacock (MH 466829)

wants to hear from you. The idea is to field one or more Pairs at one or more of the venues during the summer. We have a promise from two gentlemen who, although not members of the Branch will represent us, but others would be most welcome.

RBL Festival of Youth

You may have seen in the recent issue of *Legion* reference to this event due to take place at Sutton Bonnington on 19th and 20th September. We all keep saying how important it is to interest young people in the Legion but Tom Jeacock is doing something - trying to get together a Market Harborough team for the 12-15 and/or 15-18 Five-a-Side Football competitions. If you know any good, soccer-keen girls or boys, please call Tom.

Reminders

23rd April The April Lunch 12.30pm at *The Countryman*, Great Bowden. Call Tony Johnson (MH 466097) to book and/or if you need a lift.

23rd April Concert 7.30pm by the Band of the Royal Lancers, at the Church of St. James the Greater, London Road, Leicester.

17th May Dedication of New Standard, St. Mary's Church, **Lutterworth**. 3.45pm. Please call Andrew Marriott (MH 434805) if you wish to attend.

24th May 75th Anniversary - Service of Thanksgiving, 2.30pm at Market Harborough Parish Church.

WANTED

1. Helpers to man our Carnival Stall on 13th June.
2. Items for the Tombola. Please donate as many attractive items as you can.
3. Someone to act as Organiser/ Co-ordinator.

Volunteers please call Tom Ashmore (MH 433108)

A Canal Trip?

Someone said, "Let's hire a Narrowboat for a day on the canal" For a group of 12 people the cost would be between £5 and £8 each depending on whether it was a weekday or a weekend/Bank Holiday. If you are interested call Tony Johnson who will try to fix it. Sounds fun!

Lincoln RAF Air Show

Market Harborough Travel Club, with which we are going to the Edinburgh Tattoo, has an outing to this major airshow on **27th June**. Tom Jeacock has the details of this great day out.