

In Touch, Too

The Market Harborough Branch Bimonthly News Sheet

Reg.. Charity No. 219279

Issue 9

Christmas, 1998

Civic Reception - Behind the Scenes

Faced with the problem of where to hold the Presentation of the Légion d'Honneur to Robert Cramp, I eventually had the idea that perhaps we could use (hire?) the Council Chamber. I asked and the response was as unexpected as it was pleasing. The Council Chairman would like to hold a Civic Reception for Mr Cramp, the Branch and our guests. A buffet would be provided. "Would the suggestion be acceptable?". I did not consult the Committee before I accepted!

Then followed, squeezed into too short a time, several meetings involving Ann, the Chief Executive's Secretary, our Chairman and myself, many draft programmes, discussions with Mr & Mrs Cramp, phone calls to potential helpers, and to County Field Officer, Peter Locket, who was involved in all the presentations in his area, the "URGENT" letter to all members and hoping there would be room for everyone who wanted to attend and eventually, for them, those rather nice cards in which the Council Chairman and our Chairman were "looking forward to the pleasure of your company". All set, the media alerted by our PRO, Harborough Movie Makers ready to make a video film, letters and final programme sent to members of the Cramp family and the CFO, background/briefing notes for Council Chairman and Lord Lieutenant done, everything OK.

Then, near panic when just a few days before the 14th, Mrs Cramp phoned. Robert would not be well enough to attend! A couple of hours later, another call, "Robert insists he will be there, but can he have a wheelchair? And we will not stay for the buffet".

More consultations and then a contingency plan. We would ask the St John's Ambulance Superintendent to be present in case there was a medical emergency. If Robert could not attend, the ceremony would still go ahead but the medal would be received by Mrs Cramp.

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Poppy Appeal Results to 30/11/98

1997 in ()

Town & the Bowdens

House-to-House	2013	(1819)
Street Tuesday	584	(252)
Friday	793	(850)
Saturday	1063	(1155)

Static points	2624	(3007)
Total	7077	(7083)

Villages	1449	(1460)
Donations & Wreaths	1169	(1218)
Church collections	620	(480)
Grand Total	10315	(10241)

So, very similar to last year, overall but with some interesting individual differences. Dick Fulford (MH 431515) has a complete and detailed record & can tell you, for example how many 5p coins were in the collecting box you used on Friday!!

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Secretary Ann would go ahead with the catering arrangements but would warn her Chairman that Robert's health had deteriorated. Cllr Derrick's reaction was that if the Lord-Lieutenant agreed, the presentation could be at Robert's home and she would be willing to go with him.

You know what happened, either because you were there on Monday, 14th December or have seen the pictures and reports in the local papers. It is indeed sad that the principal figure in this historic event could not be with his fellow members and other well-wishers, but I know how pleased he was that so many of us had come to honour him. He and the family were delighted that after the Reception, the Council Chairman and Lord-Lieutenant went over to Hallerton

Thanks to the enthusiasm and generosity of the Chairman and Council, the support and hard work of the two Secretaries, Ann & Ann, we were honoured with a truly memorable occasion.

On Air

Did you remember to tune in to 106.6 FM on 1st December? If so did you have the patience to wait through several tracks of music which may not have been to your taste - they most definitely were not to mine - until the presenter introduced "from the Market Harborough Branch of the Royal British Legion, Chairman Mrs. Constance Halsall and President Mr Peter Wilson".

They were interviewed about the Branch and about the Poppy Appeal and although the questions were sensible and potentially useful, Con and Peter had had little advance notice of what they were. Nevertheless, our intrepid, though inexperienced, broadcasters bravely coped with the ordeal. I doubt if the BBC's Audience Research Unit can tell us how many people were listening to Big Dial Radio between 1pm and 1.45pm that Tuesday, but those who did should now know that we are an Active, Caring, Friendly, Innovative, Outward Looking Branch of the RBL who with the help and generosity of the people of Market Harborough have done very well for the Poppy Appeal.

Thank you, Con & Peter and than you Big Dial for giving us free air time.

Pre-Christmas Turkey

I haven't left room to write about the very enjoyable gathering at The Countryman, on 16th December, but on behalf of those who attended this or the other lunches during the year, I must say, "Thank You, Tony", for this excellent means of getting to know one another.

Attention!

Committee members please note that there will be a special meeting on Thursday, 7th January at 7.30 in the upstairs meeting room.

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*With our best wishes for Christmas and the New Year
and thanks for your support during this Anniversary Year.
Together we have shown we have a Branch worthy of our
Founders.*

Con Halsall

Tom Ashmore

Vice Chairman

Open out the card for In Touch, Too.