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Dear Member,

If you were at the branch meeting on 13th June, you will know that this Newsletter is the result of a discussion in which I and others strongly expressed the opinion that all members should be kept in touch with Branch affairs whether or not they attend monthly meetings. Although this view was not unanimously supported, it was agreed that I should produce a Newsletter for a 12 months trial period, provided that it did not require the use of Branch funds. Knowing that I can rely on the support and encouragement of many members, including, I hope, you, I willingly accept the rôle of Editor and Publisher.

Yours sincerely,  
Tom Ashmore

Mr & Mrs F T Ashmore  
9 The Pastures  
Market Harborough  
Leics.  
LE16 9EA

### Meetings

Regular meetings are held on the **Second Thursday** of each month at 8 pm in the Conservative Club Building, Fairfield Road, Market Harborough.

They are normally in the upstairs lounge (unfortunately, there is no lift).

The next meeting will be on **11th July** and we hope that you will be able to attend.

The Royal British Legion is a Registered Charity, No. 219279



# In Touch

The Newsletter  
for  
Members  
of  
**Market Harborough Branch  
The Royal British Legion**

Issue No. 1

June 1996

Editor -- Tom Ashmore  
9 The Pastures, Market Harborough,  
LE16 9EA  
Tel/Fax 01858 433108

## Keeping in touch

As a member of The Royal British Legion you receive every two months, a copy of the **Legion**, the magazine published by Headquarters and containing articles, news items, advertisements and letters. This keeps you informed on matters which concern members as a whole but cannot deal with things at the local level.

The best way of keeping in touch with **Branch** affairs is to attend **each** monthly meeting. This also has the great added advantage that one can help to influence these affairs. The other important aspect of **attending meetings** is the opportunity to keep in touch with fellow members on a more **personal level**, particularly outside the strictly "business" aspect of the evenings.

However, **less than a quarter of our members attend any particular meeting**. There are those who find the physical difficulties of getting to meetings just too great (& none of us is getting any younger!). Some members, though fit and able to attend may dislike the formality of meetings or may even be bored by some of the proceedings, and even the most ardent meeting-goer will sometimes have to miss a "second Thursday of the month".

It is hoped that a regular communication could go some way to keep **each member "in the picture"** on things of potential interest or importance and to prompt more members to come to meetings to shape the activities of the Branch. This newsletter is a **first attempt** to keep you in touch but it can only be successful, and indeed, be continued, with your support, encouragement & guidance.

**Please tell us what you want in future issues.**

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inexpensive presents.**

Tom Ashmore  
Tel: M H 433108

I have also designed and produced this  
Newsletter.



## Coach trip to York.

The Entertainments Committee, are to be congratulated on the success of the outing on 20th April which they had arranged. The coach,

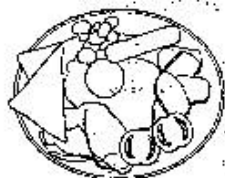


was comfortable and the driver pleasant and competent. Although the event had been arranged primarily for the benefit of members, it was advertised by posters and by word of mouth as being available to the general public. The coach was almost fully occupied but members were outnumbered nearly three to one by non-members, a disappointment for the organisers, Chairman Gordon Adnett & Treasurer, George Fleming.

The day started at 7.45am with the first of three pick-up points in the town. A refreshment/comfort stop was made en route and we arrived in York, close to the centre, at about 11.45. We were then free to enjoy the attractions of this fascinating city for nearly five hours until the coach arrived to take us home.

The highlight of the return journey was the stop at Melton Mowbray, where we were the guests of the RBL Club. We had a buffet supper in the large

function room of their magnificent building but



much to the disappointment of our hosts, we could not stay to join their members for the evening entertainment. Prizes were awarded during the meal to the lucky winners of the raffle, tickets for which had been sold on the coach.

Tired but with the satisfying feeling of having spent a most enjoyable day, we arrived home about 9.30pm.

For the Branch the event was a financial success and resulted in a net contribution to our funds of over £70. Other outings have been suggested including one to Duxford on 15th September. Where would you be interested in visiting?

## Dinner at Kilworth Springs

On 29th March, about a dozen members attended a dinner hosted by the Husbands Bosworth Branch. In the very pleasant surroundings at the Golf Club we enjoyed an excellent meal to the accompaniment of music and followed by dancing. Our experts, Josie & Keith Bowley, made those of us with

two left feet envious of their skill but the floor was also well used by others willing to "have a go".

Judging by the obvious pleasure members received from the occasion, the Entertainments Committee might like to consider a similar event hosted by our Branch. What do you think?



## Welland Park Memorial

You probably saw in one of the local papers, a picture and description of the ceremony held on 25th May. If you were there, I am sure you will agree that it was a simple yet dignified and moving occasion. Our thanks are due to all those involved in organising the event.

It was pleasing to see that young members of the Army Cadet Force were given a role in the proceedings and they are to be congratulated on the smartness of their turnout and bearing.

Standard Bearers, George Fleming and John Cox maintained their usual high degree of smartness and precision and were well supported by nine visiting Standard Bearers.

It was encouraging that so many Branch members were able to attend and that the Official Guests included the County Deputy Lieutenant, our local MP and the District Council Vice-chairman. It is however, rather disappointing that comparatively few members of the general public were there.

You may recall that the memorial was paid for from funds raised during last year's VE Day & VJ Day 50th anniversary events. It stands in the plot of ground made available and tended by the Parks Department and which was consecrated on 19th August, 1995. In a recent letter to the Harborough Mail, our President, Peter Wilson, publically acknowledged the support the Branch has received from Harborough District Council.

## From Meetings you may have missed

In agreement with the Market Harborough Millenium Committee, the Branch will be responsible for events during the week of 5th to 12th November, 2000. This may seem to be a long way into the future, but think how quickly the last four years have passed. Your ideas on what form our events should take will be most welcome.

The Parks Department are planting a flower bed in Welland Park to provide a display to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of The Royal British Legion.

The Branch celebrates its own 75th Anniversary in March next year. How do you think we should mark the occasion?

H Q have appealed for unredeemed petrol tokens and for foreign coins as these can be used to raise funds. Please contact our Secretary if you can donate tokens or coins.

The National Poppy Appeal Fund at 31st May, totalled £16,000,000. The Branch raised over £9000, a magnificent sum which reflects great credit on all those involved.

Poppy Day, 1996 will be on 9th November.

The Rev. Chris Moody, who was one of the Clergy who officiated at the Memorial Ceremony, has accepted an invitation to become the Branch Chaplin.

John Cox & George Fleming took part in the recent display in Lutterworth of Leicestershire Standard Bearers.

### Finance

Accounts submitted to the AGM in January, covered the year ending 30th September, 1995. It was explained that although Branch assets were mainly in the form of investment accounts, RBL rules restrict the way in which interest & capital may be used, e.g. the Trust / Welfare a/c may only be used for clearly defined welfare purposes. The result is that the Branch does not use any of its capital for its activities (except Welfare), but relies heavily on subscriptions & fund-raising. Any special event such as outings (or this Newsletter) are expected to be self-financing and preferably show a surplus.

### Membership

As at the end of April, 1996 the Branch had 70 members of whom 5 were Associates.

### Contacts

Matters Concerning	Contact	Phone
Welfare, War Pensions, War Graves	Peter Wilson	464585
General Branch affairs, Entertainment / Social	Gordon Adnett	466533
Information from HQ & Region, Meetings, Membership, etc.	Andrew Marriott	434805
Branch Finance, Subscriptions, etc.	George Fleming	462711
The Newsletter	Tom Ashmore	433108

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Tom Ashmore  
Tel: M H 433108

I have also designed and produced this  
Newsletter.



The Treasurer has  
available the following  
official RBL items:

Members' Ties	£6.00
Badges	£2.50
Commemorative VJ Day Mugs	£1.50

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## Thank you!

I am most grateful to our  
advertisers for their kind support,  
to Mr John Forster for generously  
offering the use of his Photocopier,  
and to all those Members who  
encouraged me to launch this  
Newsletter.

Together we can make it a success.

Tom Ashmore