



# **The Royal British Legion**

THE ROYAL BRITISH  
LEGION



## **Market Harborough Branch**

Reg Charity 219279

# ***In Touch***

*Issue 150*

*March 2011*

The monthly newsletter (founded 1996) of the Market Harborough Branch  
(BR0106) of the Royal British Legion.

**'Shoulder to Shoulder  
With All Who Serve'**

**Next Monthly Branch Meeting  
Wednesday  
13 April**

Function Room, Conservative Club, Fairfield Rd, Market Harborough  
7-30pm

## Branch News

A big thank you to all the members who helped organise the **coffee morning** on Feb 26th. Thanks to your efforts and the generosity of all those members and non members that attended the branch raised £300.

Thanks also to the splendid cadets and staff of the Army Cadet Force and the Air Training Corps who helped, it is always a pleasure to see such smart and good mannered young people in our midst.

A packed **branch meeting** heard a very interesting talk by branch member Sir Michael Carleton-Smith on Afghanistan. Painting a stark picture of reality of life for the people of Afghanistan and the threats posed by the Taliban and others in the area Sir Michael did leave us

with definite pride in the British armed forces.

A lively question and answer session concluded a very interesting talk.

Before Sir Michael's talk members voted to dispense with the buffets except for the one after the AGM. Information was given on Ken and Pat Hook's involvement in organising a junior school competition as part of Harborough in Bloom. The competition is related to the 90th anniversary of the RBL and involves decorating plant pots and growing poppies in them.

It was agreed to invite the Standard Bearers to hold their Rededication Service in Harborough in June 1912

## Sign of our Times?



## Welfare

If you are aware of any one who qualifies for, and who may benefit from, the Royal British Legion welfare services please contact

Betty Ramsey  
01858 434923



**ANGEL** the **GEL**  
HOTEL & RESTAURANT  
37 High St, Market Harborough  
LE16 7AF. Tel 01858 462702

- \* A family owned hotel with 28 en-suite rooms.
- \* Function room for private parties
- \* Family restaurant serving evening meals and traditional Sunday lunch
  - \* afternoon teas (Apr to Sept)
- \* Lounge bar - a great place to enjoy a drink with friends

**Waiting to Welcome You**

## **Branch Annual Dinner**

70 + members and friends sat down to the annual branch dinner on 11 March at the Golf Club.

The meal was top notch as always and the organisation was excellent, a big thank you to Pat Middleton and the Golf Club.

Background and dance music was provided and everyone had an enjoyable time.

During the evening the raffle raised £135 for the Poppy Appeal - thanks to John Cox for organising the raffle and those who provided the prizes.

Rev John Morley conducted a spirited auction of several items which raised a further £22 for the Poppy Appeal and £60 for the Armed Forces Committee.

Before the dancing started the Chairman announced that the Air Training Corps cadets had raised £385 which would be presented to the Poppy Appeal at the next Branch meeting.

Thanks to all who helped.

### **Lest We Forget Ron Ford**

Ron was in the RMP, an ex police officer and keen branch member. He died aged 82. The funeral was held at St Dionysius on March 10th

### **Bernard Halsall**

Bernard served as a glider pilot in WW2 and was awarded the MC. A staunch branch member he died aged 89. His funeral was held at Our Lady of Victories on March 11th..

## **Award to Poppy Collector**

Poppy collector Mike Cheeseman was presented with a Gold Star award at the County Poppy Awards morning held at Leicester City FC. Nominated by our Poppy Appeal organiser the award was in recognition of Mike's contribution to the Harborough collections. The picture shows him with his certificate at the last branch meeting. Pictured with him is Sir Michael Carleton-Smith and standing behind - Admiral Sir James Perowne and Commodore Jerry Parker.



### **New Medical Dictionary**

Bacteria – Back door to cafeteria

### **Puzzle Corner**

With out any means of measurement how can you pour exactly one litre of water from a cylinder holding two litres or water?

## The Other 149

"If it will cost the Branch nothing, you can produce it for a year". That was the less than enthusiastic response to my suggestion that there should be a Branch newsletter. Thanks to six local businesses who would advertise and the free use of my neighbour's photocopier, In Touch Issue 1 appeared in June 1966.

Five bimonthly issues later my year was up and the copier was no longer available. At the May 1997 Branch meeting I asked "Do I carry on although it will now have to be paid for". The unanimous "Yes" is why you are reading this nearly 15 years later.

In Touch continued to appear at two monthly intervals, but to keep members up to date with branch affairs, a simple single news sheet called In Touch, Too was later produced in alternate months.

The original format was a pocket size, three sheet tri-folded booklet giving 12 small pages. Obtaining, editing and writing what was to be published was the task of an editor and the success of In Touch is largely due to the skill and determination of the seven members who have acted in that role.

To get their output into print, required the use of Desk-top Publishing (DTP) software which I had, so production was my responsibility until George arrived with experience in both fields.

Current Editor, John also has this dual expertise and so was able to take over when George retired a

year ago.

The publication members receive have always been produced from a master copy, now a computer file sent by email to the printers, but previously on paper taken to the copy shop for photocopying.

A primary purpose of the newsletter was to allow members who did not attend meetings to keep in touch with and feel part of their branch. It



Ours was the first (only ?) RBL branch to twin with a Post of the American Legion.

was this that suggested its name. This feeling would be reinforced if a member received a personally delivered copy, so hand delivery remains an important part of the In Touch system. Its objectives were, and still are, to *Interest, Inform and Influence*, the '3 Is', though these are intertwined. It would have articles and stories, report Branch and other relevant news and from this this mix Encourage participation and pride in the Legion and Branch. The hope was that members would contribute much of the content to make it their publication.

Some copy has been received as very well written material, some has required a bit of editorial tweaking or even rewriting, some has been in the form of notes from an interview or a chat, a few came as audio recordings and now as emails. Most contributions have concerned personal experiences or individual interest.

Creative flair has appeared as fictional "short stories" and as poems. Jokes and anecdotes provide humour and pictures add visual interest.

Subject matter is very diverse, even surprising and included sheep, salmon, rabbits (and a ferret), dogs and *Mighty Mouse* (a German super tank), Afghanistan in 1878 and in 2010, a Belgian boy sees a glider land in 1944 and meets the pilot 60 years later, a solo Atlantic crossing by Kayak and a canal trip from Foxton, capture after Dunkirk, serving in Ireland in 1915, joining the Navy as boy and the qualifications needed to join a Scottish TA Regiment in 1939. The jungle of Burma, the desert of North Africa, the trenches of France, Christmas Day in 1915, transporting Gallipoli casualties and in 2001, sunbathing on a beach with Navy mates in Mombasa, finding a Lancaster Museum in Alberta in 2009, and in Little Bowden the ghost of an 1840 Army Captain killed by a swan, are just a few of many stories from around the world.

The coverage of Branch and other News has been equally varied. The first issue reported an outing to York, members having dinner with

Husbands Bosworth Branch and the dedication of the memorial in Wel-land Park. Remembrance time events, social activities, notes from meetings, information from RNA, RAFA and cadet units, relevant RBL County and HQ news, Poppy Appeal reports have all been included. Information about and from other RBL branches and elsewhere have provided a view "beyond our own backyard",

The newsletter has enjoyed a high reputation outside as well as within the Branch.

Regarded as a County role model in 1998 and in 2010 its editor received the rare RBL Director of Communications Award.



Ours was the first branch in the County to form an Affiliation with a cadet unit - 1084 Squadron ATC

It can claim a significant influence on the growth and success of a branch which has doubled in size and has received 3 National and 8 County Awards since issue 1. And the next 149 issues- well only time will tell and who knows where we will be in 2023.

Tom Ashmore

## Puzzle Column Answer

	£	s	d
A man's name Bob		1	0
Girls for your thoughts -Penny			1
King's hat divided into two pieces Half Crown		2	6
Poorly octopus type creature Sick Squid	6	0	0
Sun. Moon and Mars are like 3 distant objects 3 Far things			3/4
He works in leather Tanner			6
A gorilla's joint Ape knee			1/2
An old fashioned bike Penny farthing			11/4
A kind of pig Guinea	1	1	0
A male singer Tenor	10	0	0
An Australian jumper in the Xmas pudding Joey			3
Total	17	5	61/2

## Song for our Times ?

To commemorate her birthday, Julie Andrews appeared at Manhattan Radio City Music Hall. She performed a version of 'My Favourite Things' . Here are the lyrics she used: it helps if you sing them!

Botox and nose drops and needles  
for knitting,  
Walkers and handrails and new  
dental fittings,  
Bundles of magazines tied up in  
string,  
These are a few of my favourite  
things.  
Cadillacs and cataracts, hearing  
aids and glasses,  
Polydent and Fixodent and false  
teeth in glasses,  
Pacemakers, golf carts and porches  
with swings,  
These are a few of my favourite  
things.  
When the pipes leak,  
When the bones creak,  
When the knees go bad,  
I simply remember my favourite  
things,  
And then I don't feel so bad.

Hot tea and crumpets and corn pads  
for bunions,  
No spicy hot food or food cooked  
with onions,  
Bathrobes and heating pads and hot  
meals they bring,  
These are a few of my favourite  
things...

Back pain, confused brains and no  
need for sinnin',  
Thin bones and fractures and hair  
that is thinning'

And we won't mention our short  
shrunken frames,  
When we remember our favourite  
things.

When the joints ache, When the  
hips break,  
When the eyes grow dim,  
Then I remember the great life I've  
had,

### **40 Board Games**

If you bought the above book at the  
Coffee Morning or know who did,  
please get in touch with Bob Eng-  
land who has some essential pieces  
which you will need to play some of  
the games.

Bob can be contacted on 01858  
464288

### **The MOD reported the following soldiers killed in Afghanistan.**

Private Lewis Hendry, The Para-  
chute Regiment, age 20 from Nor-  
wich and Private Conrad Lewis,  
The Parachute Regiment, aged 22  
from Bournemouth. Both killed 9  
February 2011.

Private Robert Wood Royal Lo-  
gistics Corps aged 28 from Hamp-  
shire and Private Dean Hutchin-  
son Royal Logistics Corps aged 23  
from Wiltshire, Both killed 14 Feb-  
ruary in a fire at Camp Bastion.

L Cpl Liam Tasker Royal Army  
Veterinary Corps aged 26 from  
Fife, killed 1 March.

L Cpl Stephen McKee, Royal  
Irish Regiment aged 27 from  
County Down killed 9 March.



**Tuesday 5 April**

**Reservation before 30**

**March to Les Moore**

**01858 463112**

Cancellations on the day to Les  
**before 9-30 am.**

If Les is not available phone the  
Angel 01858 462702 before 10am  
or the meal will be charged for.

### **Menu**

*British pork & leek sausages,  
mashed potatoes, onion gravy,  
vegetables*

*Goujons of fish, chips and  
marrowfat peas,*

*Roast leg of lamb, roast potatoes,  
gravy, vegetables*

*Coconut and mango brulee  
cheesecake with fruity sorbet*

*Fresh fruit salad with vanilla  
ice cream*

*Warm chocolate fudge cake, with  
chocolate ice cream*

*coffee & mints*

**Only £8-25**

**Meet in the bar at noon**

## What's Going On?

- 9 Apr** Tree Planting commemorating a Polish pilot and air cadet killed in 1943. Meet at Noon Lodge entrance Husbans Bosworth
- 30 Apr** RNA Coffee morning. Harborough Theatre
- 28 May** Armed Forces Coffee Morning - proceeds go towards the support of Armed Forces event on July 3 in Welland Park
- 11 June** Carnival. Float and display. Please volunteer to help on both.
- 12 June** Poppy Party - help us celebrate the RBL 90th Anniversary with a party.
- 29 June** Desborough Armed Forces Lunch £11-50
- 3 July** Armed Forces event - Welland Park

## Puzzle Corner—Answer

Tip the cylinder sideways and pour water out until the water level in the cylinder is horizontal. It is now half full and you have poured exactly 1 litre

## Branch Contacts

### Secretary

Betty Ramsay  
01858 434923

### Treasurer & Membership

#### Secretary

Myra Grewcock  
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#### Poppy Appeal

Dave Pryor  
01858 431999

#### Wreaths

John Liddell  
01858 465003

#### Standard Bearer

Hilary Brazil  
c/o 01858 434923

#### Monthly Lunches

Les Moore  
01858 463112

#### Editor - *In Touch*

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Next Committee Meeting 7 April

## And Finally

Black sheep have a better sense of smell than white sheep.

Sheep snore - but do they count humans to get to sleep?

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*The newsletter is online at [www.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/market-harborough](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/market-harborough).*