



# **The Royal British Legion**



## **Market Harborough**

# ***In Touch***

*Issue 163*

*April 2012*

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  
9 May**

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

## **Visit To National Memorial Arboretum**

We arrived at the National Memorial Arboretum in perfect spring weather and the panorama of the memorials was spread below us in the bright sunlight. Visitors were meandering through the young trees while maintenance workers planted, hoed and trimmed around them. There was an atmosphere of constant action subdued into tranquillity by the sense of space. Volunteers whom we spoke to were all knowledgeable and explained memorials with the emotion of restrained pride. It was very striking that each memorial had its own presence, defined as much by its shape as by the tree planting. Each space had been defined and designed with care and I could only try to imagine how they would look in thirty years when the flowerbeds are set and the trees are mature.

We took the land train tour to try and see everything at once! The commentary was reduced in most cases to the simple facts about each area, although it was necessary in order to see the majority of the monuments in their settings of specific trees and types of rocks, the few moments that I had to explore the Trefoil Guild Willow Sculpture and the Post Office memorial were more rewarding and I shall explore more on foot on my next visit.

Work carries on all day due to the size of the arboretum and the

number of memorials and I was disappointed that the Falklands memorial was covered with sacking in preparation for bringing it to perfection for 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration service. I had visited the original on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary and wanted a moment to remember that time and setting

There was one riveting moment when the land train stopped and our gaze was guided through the trees to a small clearing where the theatre of the position made me feel that I had stumbled by accident to watch the event unfold. The "shot at dawn" memorial featuring the first person to be shot for supposed cowardice in the First World War caught my heart; the lad about to be shot was barely seventeen. It was hard to get back into the commentary as we moved away but the peace and beauty of the Watersmeet natural area restored my spirits. The centrepiece of the Arboretum is the Armed Forces Memorial raised on the traditional mound above the surrounding area and this too had an atmosphere of its own. The sculptures were arresting, their sense of imminent movement and their detail spoke volumes. I

### **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 Ramsay**  
**01858 434923**

thought that I was lucky to have so few other visitors to intrude on my reflections but I could imagine that the Remembrance Service with the congregation filling all the standing room waiting for the shaft of sunlight at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month, would be equally moving.

Somehow I missed seeing the memorial for St John Volunteers, probably because it needed to be visited on foot as it was behind other memorials as seen from the land train, but I was delighted to find the site's motorised ambulance with stretcher aka a golf buggy and had my picture taken with that instead!

Many thanks to the Poppy Team for an enjoyable and moving visit.  
From Sara Whitley-Kinzett.

### **Next Month**

Redcaps reunited by Necia Wolfe

### **In Memoriam**

Sydney (Sid) Amos passed peacefully away on 24 March aged 90. His funeral was attended by many branch members and the Standard was present

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

Cpl Jack Stanley age 26 from Bolton of The Queen's Royal Hussars died at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham on 8 April 2012 of wounds sustained in Afghanistan on 3 February 2012.



**Tuesday 1 May**  
Reservations before  
24 April to Les Moore 01858  
463112

**All cancellations phone the Angel 01858 462702 before 10am on the day of the meal. If you don't cancel as above you will be charged for the meal no matter what your reason**

### **Menu**

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

*Battered haddock, chips and mushy peas*

*Warm char grilled chicken breast, tomato, mozzarella salad, warm new potatoes*

### **Sweet**

*Lemon meringue freezer cake, vanilla ice cream,*

*Apple & sultana bread & butter pudding, custard*

*Fresh fruit salad and fruity sorbet*

*Coffee and mints*

***£8-50 - pay on the day***  
***Meet in the bar at noon***

## What's Going On?

### Forthcoming Events

- 9 May Talk by Sir Michael Carleton-Smith, 'A Medley of Military Memories from the Cold War and Colonial Conflict era'
- 18-20 May National Conference
- 26 May RNA Coffee Morning
- 9 June Harborough Carnival. Volunteers needed to help man the stall.
- 25 Jun Flag Raising Ceremony for Armed Forces Day at the Council House
- 1 Jul Armed Forces Day event. Welland Park, Flypast by Dakota if the weather is fine.
- 11 Jul Talk by George Gamble on a little known WW1 disaster.
- 28 July RNA Cheese and wine Party. Great Bowden Village Hall, 7 p.m. £5 to include 2 glasses of wine.

### Branch Contacts

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#### Treasurer & Membership Secretary

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#### Wreaths

Post Vacant

#### Standard Bearer

Hilary Brazil  
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#### Monthly Lunches

Les Moore  
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Next Committee 3 May

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