



# **The Royal British Legion**



## **Market Harborough**

# ***In Touch***

*Issue 167*

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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  
12 September**

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

## **County & Branch News**

**County Half Yearly Conference**  
Held at Melton Mowbray on Saturday 21 July. At the meeting our Vice Chairman, Very Rev John Morley was appointed County Chaplain. The RBL is proposing to enter into a partnership with Age UK (formerly Age Concern) to provide a service to RBL beneficiaries in Leicestershire from age 18 upwards.

A lively and humorous presentation was given by two residents of the Chelsea Hospital.

**At the July branch meeting,** George Gamble gave a very interesting talk on Medals for Animals and a WW1 disaster that occurred at home. It was fascinating to hear some of the tales of animal bravery, many of which cannot be explained by simply saying they were trained to do it. Perhaps we underestimate our relationship with animals?

The WW1 disaster was the Quintinshill rail disaster on 22 May 1915 near Gretna Green. The crash, involved five trains, killed a probable 230 and injured 246 and remains the worst rail crash in the United Kingdom in terms of loss of life.

Those killed were mainly Territorial soldiers from the 177th (Leith) Battalion, the Royal Scots heading for Gallipoli. The precise number of dead was never established with confidence as the roll list of the regiment was destroyed by the fire.

**Deputy Standard Bearer** John Cox has reluctantly resigned from his post. As he says his spirit is very willing but age is taking its physical

toll.

John was Branch Standard Bearer for 11 years and won the County Cup in 1994 carrying the Standard at the Albert Hall Remembrance Service the same year. The branch thanks John for his sterling work over the years and we hope he will continue to support the work of the Branch and the Legion for years to come,

### **Subscriptions**

Are due on 1 October. The branch subscription is held at £2 and the Annual National Membership fee has risen by only £1. Please pay your subs (£15) to Myra Grewcock, 8 Holdenby Close, MH, LE16 8JE as soon as possible. If you don't yet pay by direct debit please consider doing so, it is so much easier for everyone.

### **Poppy Team Trip to Menin Gate**

Walking along the massive walls of Ypres was like a stroll in a park. Cut grass, park benches, mature trees and flowers camouflaged the purpose of these high battlements. Suddenly the Menin Gate cut through the battlements, a white marble shrine to some 55,000

### **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

soldiers of WW1 who have no known grave. The immense structure, covered with names is a shocking sight. The volume of names in letters only 2" high stretched from cornice to floor on every wall. It was overwhelming to think that so many men were never found. Occasional empty spots in the lists show where a soldier's name has been removed after his grave had been identified. It is numbing to the imagination while walking away along the battlements on the other side of the Gate. It was difficult because everything was now modern, lovely and normal again. The exquisite moat ended in a large lake with waterfowl and sweeping trees. The eye caught the top of a cross above a small, neat cemetery. This cemetery (Ramparts Cemetery) has a scattering of Irishmen amongst a swathe of New Zealand Maoris. Strangely I felt I would have liked to tell their mothers that they had a beautiful view and a peaceful place of rest. Meeting the President of the Inner Wheel of New Zealand I shared my thoughts with her hoping she will pass the message. A memorable visit and I had the honour of laying the wreath to the haunting pipe lament played by Graham Pryor.

By Sara Whitley-Kinzett

**The MOD reported no Armed Forces killed in Afghanistan up to the date of the July branch meeting.**



Tuesday 4 September  
Reservations before 28 August  
to Les Moore 01858 462702  
**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

#### Menu

*Pork & Leek sausages, bubble & squeak, sage & onion gravy*

*Cheddar cheese and tomato chutney tart salad, new potatoes*

*Battered cod, chips garden peas with tartar sauce*

*Butterfried pork steak, apple & grain mustard sauce, crushed new potatoes, vegetables*

#### Sweet

*Lemon cheesecake & vanilla ice cream*

*Apple & blackberry flapjack crumble, creamy custard*

*Fresh fruit salad and thick cream*

*Coffee and mints*

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

## What's Going On?

### Forthcoming Events

- 8 Sept RNA Coffee Morning  
15 Sept RAFA Coffee Morning  
6 Oct Poppy Launch Coffee Morning  
All at the Theatre from 0900 to 1200. Volun-  
teers need to help out.
- 12 Sep Branch meeting, talk by  
manager of Peaker  
Park
- 16 Sep Battle of Britain Ser-  
vice, St Nicholas  
Church 1045
- 10 Oct Poppy Awards Presen-  
tations at the Branch  
meeting
- 27 Oct Poppy Launch 11 am  
3 Nov Festival of Remem-  
brance. De Montfort  
Hall. Transport to be  
arranged for those  
who need it.
- 5 Nov Remembrance  
Garden to be set up.
- 10 Nov Swing Night by Harbor-  
ough Musical Theatre  
at Welland Park.  
40s/50s theme,  
dancing singing, buffet.  
£15. Profits shared with  
RBL
- 11 Nov Remembrance Day

### Branch Contacts

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Dave Pryor  
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Post Vacant

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Next Committee 6 September

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