

# Intouch

The monthly newsletter founded in 1996



## The Royal British Legion

Registered Charity No. 219279

Shoulder to Shoulder with all who Serve

### Market Harborough Branch

Founded in 1923

years of caring in the  
local community



### Next Monthly Branch Meeting

7.30 pm Wednesday 10 April

Committee 4 April

Function Room, Conservative Club,  
Fairfield Rd. Market Harborough

Issue 174

March 2013

Welcome to the special Anniversary Issue of *In Touch* in which we recall the formation of the Branch and, in a colour supplement, some of the other events of 1923.

### Membership

We are pleased to welcome 21 new members, most of whom have transferred from Ashley branch which closed last year. We hope they will become interested and involved in their new branch.

### Social

It was good to see two new faces amongst the sixteen at the lunch at The Angel but why do not more come to this enjoyable event?

And why have not more of you put your names down for the proposed Poppy Factory visit? Please contact Secretary, Betty on 01858 434923.

The after meeting event took the form of a PowerPoint presentation about 1923, a sort of on screen version of the Supplement to this newsletter.

### Fundraising

The Coffee morning on 23 February Raised £350 for the Poppy Appeal thanks to the efforts of the ACF cadets who served some 120 cups of coffee and tea, ATC cadets who made £100 on the Tombola, and members on the cake stall, the door, running the raffle or just attending.

The Poppy Appeal collection at Leices-



ter City FC in November and the auction of shirts was up on the previous year and participating Branches' share should be about £1,000. Thanks to LCFC, George Fleming, Members and Friends and our Standard Bearer who supported this.

### Meeting Notes

From discussion with the Council, our Chairman learned that arrangements for cleaning the War Memorial on The Square were in hand and that the cost of over £2000 would be covered by a donor. The future of the Hospital Memorial was still being considered. Also discussed was that the future of the Garden of Remembrance was in doubt until new storage facilities for the crosses, etc. were available.

Some of the motions for National Conference were read and others were available to view. Major changes to the Royal Charter will be voted on.

### Welfare

Two new cases were reported.

Continued on Page 7

Cover Photo Taken on 26 March 2004 at the Anniversary Dinner at the Market Harborough Golf Club

20<sup>th</sup> March 1923

**BRITISH LEGION.**

Branch Formed at Market  
Harborough.

This was the heading of a report in the centre column of page 2 of the *Midland Mail* of Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1923. It started

'On Tuesday evening a meeting was held in the Assembly Rooms at Market Harborough for the purpose of endeavouring to form a branch of the British Legion.' The meeting was the result of this announcement the previous week:

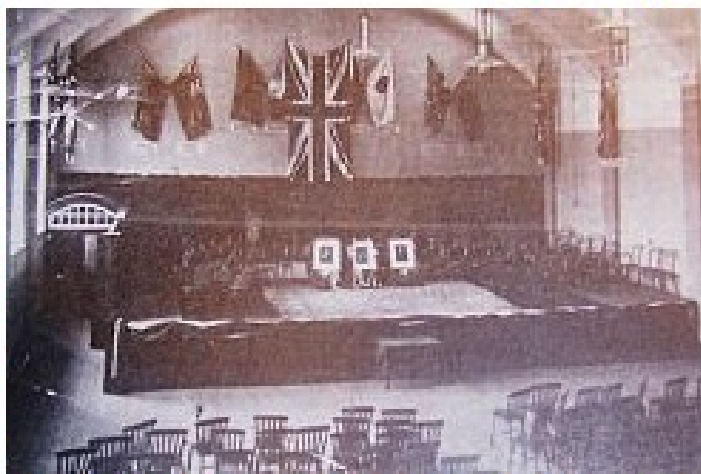
*'BRITISH LEGION A Meeting of ex-Serv-ice Men will be held in the Small Assembly Room Market Harbor-*

*ough on Tuesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 1923 when an address will be given by Mr Councillor S A Barber (of Mansfield) Vice Chairman of the East Midlands Area Council and Member of the National Executive Council of the British Legion. Chair will be taken at 8pm by the Rev H J Eacott, Hon. Chaplin to H M Forces. The object of the meeting is to form a Branch of the Legion in Market Harborough.'*

The Rev. H J T Eacott presided. He said he had been looking through some of the pamphlets issued by Legion and the facts therein simply left one aghast. He wished there had been a larger attendance but was glad to welcome those who were present because if they were bound together in the Legion they could do something to alleviate the misery and distress that was illustrated in those tragic lists.

Councillor Barber of Mansfield said the Legion had been formed by the amalgamation of four chief organisations - the Officers Association, the Comrades of the Great War, the National Federation and the National Association. The Legion was democratic, non-party politically and non-sectarian. It was intended to look after ex-service

Continued on p 4



The Assembly Room after a patriotic meeting in 1914 or 1915 to encourage men to enlist. (From 'Around Market Harborough in Old Photographs collected by Steph Mastoris -1989') The Small Assembly Room was probably through the door on the left of the picture.

men in every place. The speaker referred to the efforts of the Legion for the young man who was deprived of his trade training by reason of his having gone to the war; the successful establishment of the ship-breaking yards as a means of alleviating distress and unemployment; the systems of loans to enable men to start small businesses, which, whilst having had a percentage of failures, had been generally successful. The influence of the Legion in influencing the retention of the Ministry of Pensions was also alluded to and the Legion's work in connection with pensions also. They were, said the speaker, far from satisfied with the administration of war pensions in this country today, but nothing could ever be done unless they made themselves into a powerful body.

That was one reason why Market Harborough and other bodies outside should join up. The administration expenses of the Legion were very low. In conclusion, the speaker said they found amongst members of the Legion that spirit of comradeship amongst officers and men that existed in the war.

Councillor Petrie of Derby also advocated the claims of the Legion and gave instances of its influence in local public work - War Pensions Committees, local Councils and Boards of Guardians, etc. - where the interests of ex-service men were involved. Many things could be done for ex-

service men by a powerful organisation which they could never hope to achieve as individuals.



The building on the left was the Corn Exchange at the rear of which was the Assembly Room. They were both demolished and became the site of the Golden Wonder Offices in Abbey Street, now converted to shops and motel. The building on the right is Manor House, now a hairdresser salon and offices. (From *The Book of Market Harborough* by J.C.Davies & Michael c. Brown)

In reply to Captain Jeffrey Clark, Mr Barber said the whole of the funds of the organisations he named had been amalgamated in the British Legion.

Captain Clark said he had every sympathy with the British Legion and thought it was an excellent organisation. He proposed that they formally establish a branch of the Legion for Market Harborough.

Ex- Sergeant Major Pierce seconded

and the resolution was carried unanimously.

The first officers of the Branch were elected as follows:-

Chairman, the Rev H J T Eascott, C.F., Secretary, Mr Wright, Treasurer, Mr J Goldsbrough; Committee, Major R Tombson, Captain Knighton, Captain Steadman, Messrs Edgehill, G Freeman, Warner and Higgs.

Mr Barber said the minimum subscription to the Legion was 2s.6d; eighteen pence of this was remitted to Headquarters and of that eighteen pence, sixpence was remitted back to regional headquarters.

Commenting on Mr Wright's acceptance of the office of Secretary, Captain Knighton said Mr Wright had taken a great interest and done a great lot of work on behalf of ex-service men and they were very pleased to see him take this position.

Mr Wright said he had been disappointed with the Comrades Association, the interest in which fell away altogether. He hoped it would not do so with this Legion, and he appealed to everybody that if they were going to take it up they should do so wholeheartedly and make it a success.

The meeting ended with votes of thanks to the speakers and the Chairman.

The above is the full transcript of the newspaper report from which extracts appeared in *In Touch* January 1997.

## Also on Page 2

Charming <sup>For Spring</sup> Models  
"THE HOUSE OF PROGRESS"



Also, Ladies' Evening Gowns, suitable for the "HOUSE OF PROGRESS" is sent from:  
"DOLBY" "CHANEL" "SLASHVILLE"

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**WALLPAPERS**  
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White 1/4 per 100, Colours, 4d. per 100.

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Low, and Repairs Guaranteed.  
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**W. H. STEVENS,**  
1008 STREET, MARKET HARBOROUGH

## Getting down to Business

Just a month after that first meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> April the Midland Mail carried the following Public Announcement.

A Meeting of ex-Service Men will be held in the Small Assembly Room, Market Harborough on Monday April, 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7.30pm. to Enrol Members of the Local Branch of the British Legion.

And a week later a report in the Market Harborough & District news column read:

**BRITISH LEGION** - A meeting in connection with the Market Harborough Branch of the British Legion was held in the Assembly Rooms on Monday evening, the Rev H J T Eacott C. F. presiding. A number of new members were enrolled and several more expressed their intention of transferring from other Branches. The branch already has several cases in hand in which it is endeavouring to extend help in various ways to local ex-service men. Mr Wright, Coventry Road, is the Secretary and will be very pleased to give any particulars.

Over the following early years the Branch had its meetings in a variety of locations including the Adult School, the Ambulance Hall, the Old Grammar School, 67 High Street, the Coventry Road Infants School and Anholme House (Abbey Street).

## Miscellany

The 'British Legion Annual Report and Accounts for 1923' stated on page 28 in 'Poppy Day Report' that Market Harborough contributed £44-11s-5d



Who makes it, has no need of it.  
Who buys it, has no use for it.  
Who uses it can neither see  
nor feel it.

*Answer on p 8*

**Last Month's Puzzle Answer**  
Dick was 20, in Navy, in England  
Tom was 22, in RAF, in Wales  
Harry was 24, in Army, in Scotland

### Welfare

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

**Betty Ramsay**  
01858 434923

From page 2

It was reported that at their annual visit to Belgium, the ATC laid a wreath at the Menin Gate - very good photos are on Last Post Association Website.

## Pathway for Growth

This programme of change for the Legion was launched in 2010 and designed to ensure that all four pillars of the Legion mission (welfare, comradeship, representation and remembrance) are delivered more effectively including reaching more of our beneficiaries in more areas and help them to address their needs more effectively.

The Legion will have a visible high street presence in 16 major towns and cities, enabling beneficiaries to get advice and support. The public will be able to drop in to new walk-in centres and find out more about what the Legion does. Staff and members, and other charities supporting the armed forces community, will be able to use office and meeting space.

There will be other locations, shared with other charities, to provide drop-in sessions for advice and information. A new national call centre and a new online facility will also be set up.

Members and other volunteers will still be needed to run the Poppy Appeal and to deal with local welfare case work and home and hospital visits.



**MEET IN THE BAR AT NOON**

**2 APRIL**

for good food and good company

### Menu

Stuffed pork belly  
with mashed potatoes and  
apple infused gravy

Baked white fish  
dressed on crushed new potatoes  
topped with creamy parsley sauce

Chicken strips  
in a mushroom and tarragon sauce  
with roast potatoes

All with a Selection of vegetables



Mango and coconut Brulee  
with a min jug of cream

Warm chocolate fondant sponge  
and vanilla ice-cream

Fresh fruit Salad  
With fruity Sorbet



Coffee and mints

£8.50 Pay on the day

To book, ring Les Moore (01858 463112) before **26 March**. To cancel a booking you must phone **The Angel** (01858 462702) before 10 am on the day or you will be charged.

## What's Going On?

### Forthcoming Events

- 22 Mar 90th Anniversary Dinner  
7 for 7.30 pm. MH Golf Club. Raffle prizes please.
- 10 Apr General meeting and a  
Talk by Rev John Morley
- 12 Apr Music & song at Desboro'  
Tickets £7.50 Tel 01536 763438 or 355982
- 25 Apr ANZAC Day
- 8 May Social event at Peaker  
Park in lieu of Branch meeting.
- 18/19 May National Annual Conference, Llandudno
- 22 May RNA Greyhound outing  
details on 01858 465502
- 8 Jun M H Carnival with Float & stall.
- 12 Jun Branch Meeting and a  
Quiz by Janet & Brian Lee
- 15 Jun County Half-year Conference at M H  
Conservative Club
- 22 Jun AFD Service and Parade  
Leicester Cathedral
- 29 Jun National Armed Forces  
Day - Nottingham
- 30 Jun M H Armed Forces Day  
Armed Forces Day Event

#### ***In Touch*** Next Month

Features 'The First Anzac Day', &  
'Sworn to Secrecy' (in Berlin)

*The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the Editor or the Market Harborough Branch. The editor reserves the right to decide what is to be published and to edit material submitted. No part may be reproduced without prior permission.*

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

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#### Treasurer & Membership

##### Secretary

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##### Branch Website

[www.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/market-harborough](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/market-harborough)



# It Happened in 1923

Those who had a Wireless Set like this and tuned in to station 2LO from this Savoy Hill studio of the



British Broadcasting Company, which had been formed on 18 October, could keep up to date with the news and other programmes. A

receiving Licence was required, costing ten shillings, (about £23 in today's money). The Radio Times first appeared three weeks before the BBC actually existed.



The Cinema, such as the Electric on the Square in Market Harborough, was another source of News and entertainment, although still without sound. News reels by Pathe showed events of the day such as a huge fire in

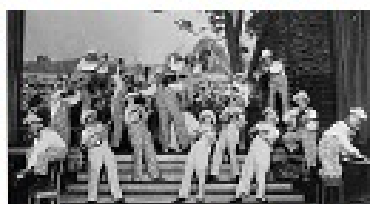


Hartlepool, the Royal Wedding, the General Election and the FA Cup Final at the new Wembley Stadium where the enormous crowd which had overflowed on to the pitch was eventually cleared by Billy, the mounted Police White Horse. Play started 45 minutes late and ended in a 2-0 victory for Bolton Wanderers over West Ham.

What most people relied on for news was the daily Newspaper of which there were twenty-five national titles including the Chronicle,



Graphic, Herald, News, Morning Post and Evening Standard. As now they relied on advertising products such as these or



entertainment like the Midnight Follies Orchestra and other popular dance bands performing at the big London hotels, the Hammersmith Palais, Café de Paris and the newly opened Lyons Corner House in the Strand.

# Some Notable Months

The 'Big Four' Railway companies were formed as a result of the [Railways Act 1921](#)

[London and North Eastern Railway \(LNER\)](#) The [Flying Scotsman](#), its most famous locomotive entered service. It was retired from regular service in 1963 after covering 2,076,000 miles



[London Midland and Scottish Railway \(LMS\)](#) was the world's largest transport organisation, the largest commercial business in the [British Empire](#) and the [United Kingdom's](#) second largest employer, after the [Post Office](#).

[Southern Railway \(SR\)](#) It served Southern England and operated a number of famous named trains, including the [Brighton Belle](#), the [Bournemouth Belle](#), and the [Golden Arrow](#).

[Great Western Railway \(GWR\)](#) The only one of the earlier companies to retain its name. It was called by some "God's Wonderful Railway" and by others the "Great Way Round"

January

Mrs Johnson gave birth to a son, Tony, on Wednesday, 7th.

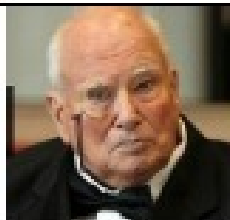


The tomb of Tutenkhamun, the 11<sup>th</sup> pharaoh of the 18<sup>th</sup> Dynasty of Ancient Egypt was opened on the 16<sup>th</sup> following its discovery in 1922 by the archaeologist Howard Carter.



February

[Market Harborough Branch of the British Legion](#) was formed on the 20<sup>th</sup>.



Patrick Moore was born on the 4<sup>th</sup>. He became Sir Patrick Moore CBE, FRS, FRAS, best known for his BBC series [The Sky at Night](#). He died on 9 December, 2012.

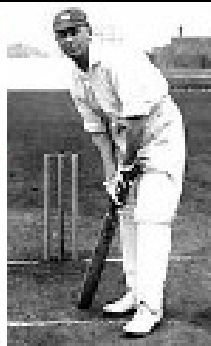
March

April & May

Prince Albert, Duke of York (later King George VI), and Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon married on 26



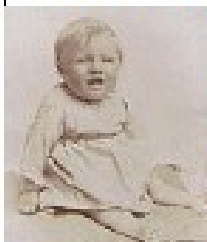
April. In a break with tradition, their wedding was a public affair at Westminster Abbey instead of at a royal chapel. It was not broadcast on the radio because the Archbishop of Canterbury was concerned that men might listen to it in public houses.



Jack Hobbs scored his 100th century on 8 th May

July

In rural Hunts, Tom Ashmore was born on the 30th.



In London, striking dockers marched for better pay and working conditions.

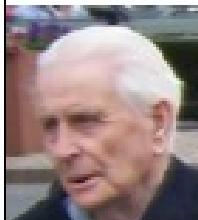


The employers had proposed a reduction in wages from 8s to 5s 6d for the four-hour minimum employment period.

September to December



On 1st September a massive earthquake struck off the coast of Japan causing devastation in Tokyo and other cities as well as a tsunami.



In Germany inflation had made bank notes worthless and were used as fuel and playthings. A loaf of bread cost 1 billion marks in November.

That month in Britain Bill Cotton was born on the 3rd and posters appeared for the Earl Haig Fund. The first broadcast of Big Ben was on 31st December.



## These also appeared in 1923



Children's Annuals and Magazines for the grown-ups



This supplement to the Anniversary issue of In Touch has been compiled by Tom Ashmore from events and images from 1923 mostly found on the Internet.