



## The Editor Writes

For reasons well-known to Members, November is the climax of the year for the Royal British Legion. Spiritually it is the time of Remembrance and materially it is the opportunity to gather funds to enable the work of the Legion to continue.

In this issue of your newsletter, much space is devoted to the encouragement of us all to do whatever we can to help raise money for the Poppy Appeal. If you are unable to assist in street or door-to-door collections, why not come along to one or more of the events mentioned? Together we *can* achieve Bob England's target of £19,000.

Christmas is coming and I would be interested in any short festive stories or anecdotes that you have to tell. You don't have to worry about writing if you'd rather not, just give me a ring and I will arrange to bring my tape recorder along. I look forward to hearing from you.

### *Your presence is requested*

*at these entertaining fund-raising events.*

*Saturday, 6th November from 9am*

Coffee Morning at the Harborough Theatre.

*Monday, 8th November at 7.45pm*

Gala Evening with buffet at the Harborough Theatre.

(Tickets £10 from 01858 462143.)

*Saturday, 13th November at 7.30pm*

Remembrance Concert with the Harborough Band at the Methodist Church.

(Tickets £4.50 from ABC Music, 7 St Mary's Road R D Jeacock, 20 Coventry Road.)

*Please be sure to be there yourself - and bring all your relations, friends, casual acquaintances, workmates, neighbours, blood brothers, buddies, best mates, old comrades, ex-sweethearts - in fact anybody with a few bob to spare for the year's greatest cause - the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.*

## County Review

### *Items of Interest from the Leicestershire & Rutland RBL County Circular*

**Poppy Football Match** Following the success of the Poppy Match held last year at the Walkers Stadium, another Remembrance dedicated match has been arranged by the Royal British Legion, the Leicester Mercury and Leicester City Football Club on Saturday, 13th November 2004.

It is planned for the match ball to be delivered by the RAF at 2.00pm. This will be followed by the Quorn Pipe Band until 2.20pm, and then a parade of Standards. Sixty collectors are required to work in teams with as many branches represented as possible. Last year well over £5000 was raised and the money collected will be distributed to the branches that send collectors. At least forty veterans, wearing their medals if possible, will be needed to walk around the pitch at half time, smiling at the crowds. Everyone who attends will have a seat for the match so you can see all the action. Car park space at the ground is limited, so it will be first come first served. You will need to assemble at the ground at 12.45pm ready to rattle the buckets as the supporters arrive. (From Maureen Watson, County Secretary.)

If you would like to be a part of this enjoyable event, please contact 01858 466097 as soon as possible and give your name, etc.

**The County Field Officer.** Richard Foster took up his duties September 20 and has agreed to attend the Market Harborough Branch meeting in January. A profile and photograph of Mr Foster will appear in the next issue of *In Touch*.

***Would you like to attend Branch Meetings or other events but cannot because you have no transport? Don't despair - help could be at hand! Phone Vida (see front page) and every effort will be made to assist you.***

## Items of Interest

**Are you old enough for this?** Growing older is not all doom and gloom. We can watch television for nothing, we're helped to keep warm in the winter, and now it will be cheaper to leave the country altogether! Tom Jeacock spotted this Home Office announcement in his daily newspaper.

Many people made sacrifices during World War II to secure the freedom of our country. The British Government would like to give something back.

If you're a British National born on or before 2nd September 1929, from 18th October 2004 you can apply for a free ten-year passport from the UK Passport Service.

If you have applied for a passport since 19th May 2004 and you're eligible for the above scheme, please apply for a refund.

For further information about your free ten-year passport, or how to apply for a refund, please call the Passport Adviceline on 0870 521 0410 (calls are charged at national rate).

**In Memorium.** In association with the RBL, the Sunday Telegraph is to publish a dedicated remembrance page on November 14th. You can commemorate the courage of a loved one and keep their memory alive with your message. There is a special rate of £7.50 per line and 10% will go to the Poppy Appeal. Send to: In Memorium Announcements, The Sunday Telegraph, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DT. Or you can phone 020 7531 3000 between 9am and 4pm Monday to Friday, or email: [announcements.ads@telegraph.co.uk](mailto:announcements.ads@telegraph.co.uk).

### *Wisecracks of the Stars*

"I've never disliked a man enough to give him his diamonds back"

*Zsa Zsa Gabor.*

"You know you're getting old when the candles cost more than the cake."

*Bob Hope.*



**\*\* URGENT REQUEST \*\***

An excellent fund-raising opportunity is presented by the generous Harborough Theatre offer of the proceeds from a performance of *Journey's End*, the poignant first world war play by R C Sherriff. All tickets for the Gala Evening on Monday, November 6th, must be sold so that we can gain the full benefit for the Poppy Appeal. Please make every effort to be there with your friends. Tickets, price £10, to include a buffet, are available from Joan McMillin on 01858 462143. Please call.

**Annual General Meeting.** The AGM will take place at the Branch meeting on 10th November. A nomination form for Committee Membership is distributed to Members with this issue.

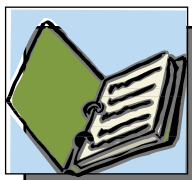
**Membership Subscriptions now due.** The Branch Treasurer, Tony Johnson, will be most grateful if Members who pay by cash do so at the next meeting or, if unable to attend, send a cheque promptly to him at 31 Rupert Road, Market Harborough, LE16 9LT. The annual subscription is £11.50 and your editor apologises for not mentioning this amount last month. Please bear in mind that the Treasurer works voluntarily and chasing outstanding subs is very time consuming. Your kind co-operation will be greatly appreciated.

**Flood Relief scheme disruption.** Plans of the Garden lay-out and other details have been passed to the contractors, and it is understood they will suspend work in the area on November 11th and 14th.

**The Branch Standard.** As George Fleming will be parading the County Standard in Leicester on November 14th, John Cox will carry the Branch Standard.

**Anniversary Dinner, 2005.** The 82nd annual celebration of the formation of the Branch will take place on March 18th at Market Harborough Golf Club.

**Festival of Music.** This popular annual event at the Royal Albert Hall will be on February 12th. The Royal Naval Association is arranging a trip, call 01858 462143.



**The Diary**

Details of all Social Events are available from Joan McMillin on MH 462143. Joan welcomes your ideas for events, outings, etc.

**SOME DATES TO KEEP FREE**

- 6 Nov Festival of Remembrance Concert - De Montfort Hall
- 6 Nov Branch Coffee Morning - Harborough Theatre
- 8 Nov Poppy Appeal Gala Evening - Harborough Theatre
- 10 Nov Branch Annual General Meeting.
- 13 Nov MH Band Remembrance Concert - Methodist Church
- 12 Feb RNA outing to Festival of Music.
- 12 Mar Branch Anniversary Dinner at MH Golf Club.

**The date of the next meeting is November 10th**

Branch meetings are held on the Second Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm in the downstairs Function Room, Conservative Club, Fairfield Road, Market Harborough.

The Branch Committee meets on the Thursday preceding the Branch Meeting at 7.30 pm in the upstairs Committee Room at the Conservative Club.

**THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION**

**The Royal British Legion**  
Reg. Charity 219279

**Market Harborough Branch**

Founded in 1923

**81 Years**

**Branch Website**  
[www.mktharbrorbl.ukvet.net](http://www.mktharbrorbl.ukvet.net)

**In Touch**

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Once again the annual Poppy Appeal is imminent, and as ever, my team has a need for volunteers to help out.

We ask for this assistance because the Market Harborough Branch is responsible for quite a large area. As well as the town, we cover the two Bowdens and twenty-three outlying villages. Although the villages usually carry out their own door-to-door collections, the Branch supplies the poppies and collecting boxes.

Mr and Mrs Swannack visit over 100 shops, public houses, hotels, garages, etc., in the area. They are asked to take a tray of poppies on their premises, and about 95% of them agree to do so. This is a time-consuming operation, as it requires an initial call followed by visits to deliver and collect trays and collecting boxes.

The Branch receives the poppies in boxes of 2,000 and the trays as flat-packs, each of which has to be assembled and

**Poppy Appeal Organiser  
Bob England reports**

*Most of the ceremonies on November 11<sup>th</sup> take place at memorials for those who served in two World Wars. However, 40,000 service men and women have been killed or injured during subsequent conflicts in Korea, the Falklands, the Gulf Wars, and now Iraq. The essential work of the Royal British Legion goes on.*

filled with a hundred or so poppies, pins, stickers, etc. To supply the villages, business premises, door-to-door and street collectors, we need to make ready some 250 trays.

Dougie McMeeken reports a very good response from house-to-house collectors and supplies will be distributed prior to October 30<sup>th</sup>. On Sundays October 31<sup>st</sup> and November 7<sup>th</sup>, Dougie will be outside the Co-op supermarket

at 10am to meet volunteers willing to do a couple of hours collecting in areas not otherwise covered. Members are asked to tell friends about this and, wherever possible, transport will be provided.

Collectors will be in the town centre on Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>, Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> and, finally, Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup>.

If you would like to help us in any way, please contact me on 01858 464288

Last year, Market Harborough raised over £18,000 for the Poppy Appeal Fund.

***Please help us make it £19,000 this year.***

*P.S. Norman Banting told the Branch Meeting that, after a recent visit, he considered the Portakabin to be a very wise and worthwhile investment for the Branch.*

**Saturday 6th November.**

Coffee Morning at the Harborough Theatre doors open at 9am. All proceeds to the Poppy Appeal.

**Saturday 6th November.**

The De Montfort Hall, Leicester.

The Festival of Remembrance Concert with "The Band of the Life Guards" Please try and support this wonderful occasion, it starts at 7pm.

**Monday 8th November.**

Set up the garden of remembrance, Mkt. Harborough. Your help is needed and volunteers are requested to meet at the Garden at 8am. This is all subject to the flood relief project.

**Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 8th to 10th.**

There will be a short Sunset Ceremony led by the Branch Standard Bearers at 4pm. Your support at this moving ceremony will be most appreciated. This will be the 5th year that we have carried out the ceremony.

**Monday 8th November.**

The Poppy Appeal gala evening performance of

*Programme of Remembrance*

*"We will remember them"*

*Compiled by George Fleming*



*Journey's End* (with buffet) at the Harborough Theatre.

**Thursday 11th November.**

At 10.15am sharp - The Act of Remembrance in Welland Park at the Memorial near the main entrance in Welland Park Road.

At 10.55am - The Act of Remembrance in The Square by the Memorial Garden Gates, followed by Two Minutes Silence and Wreath Laying Ceremony. A Maroon will be fired to signal the beginning and end of the silence.

Please note there will *not* be a Sunset ceremony on this day at 4pm.

**Friday 12h November**

At 4pm - There *will* be the Sunset ceremony as usual.

**Saturday 11th November.**

The Branch Remembrance Concert with the Harborough Band will take place at the Methodist church, on the Northampton Road commencing at 7.30pm. (Note: Not at the Baptist church.)

**Sunday 14th November.**

The Remembrance Service and Parade. You are invited to join the parade to the Parish Church, assembling at 10am on the Tesco car park subject to the water works. The service will commence at 10.45am, but you are requested to take your seat in the church by 10.30. Following the service there will be the laying of wreaths on the Memorial in the Square.

**Monday 15th November.**

At 8.30am the volunteer working party will commence the removal of the display in the Remembrance Gardens. It is hoped that the work will be completed by 10.30am.

## ***Poppies in Peru***

**D**iane Chester wrote to *Travelsphere News* from Portland in Dorset after her trip with the company to Peru accompanied by her friend Marilyn Barry from Tunbridge Wells. Her delightful story is reproduced here with permission.



Armistice Day 2003 certainly was memorable. It was the day we had all been waiting for - our visit to Machu Picchu - and it was Remembrance Sunday. I persuaded everyone to wear a poppy, which I had purchased in England.

The train pulled out of Cusco and hooted three times on the dot of 0600 hrs, which coincidentally was exactly 1100 hrs in United Kingdom time. I don't know whether it was the fact that we were all realising a dream, or whether some were thinking of those who had given their lives that we might have the freedom to take such holidays, but a natural silence seemed to fall upon our group.

Later, however, the mood once again lightened and a magical day was had by all.

In the photograph, Diane, on the right, is seen with Marilyn, proudly wearing their poppies high in the Peruvian mountains. (*Diane added: "If you publish this story, it would please me greatly if you could waive the £50 voucher in favour of donating the equivalent to the Royal British Legion."*)

## ***In memoriam Lieutenant Dease V.C.***

Down the road in a modern era,  
Travelling the miles in minutes or seconds,  
Which, once took foot sore troops, hours,  
Then to be told, go on, go on.  
The cobbled streets taking their toll,  
Sore feet, aching backs, a heavy load,  
Each hoping for a rest that never came,  
Onward to a place with an odd name,  
The order came; "Halt for a rest", then,  
"Take up your positions, earn your pay".  
Looking beyond the bridge at Nimy,  
Eyes staring, prayers silently offered.  
A machine gun chatters, the column breaks.  
Men fall down, a death blow struck.  
Two armies clash, who is the stronger?  
Falling back to prepared positions,  
The Grim Reaper is after his harvest,  
Collecting his dues, moves on, to where?  
To harvest further Souls from both sides.  
The War moves away, a fearful silence.  
Many men lie in a final grotesque posture.  
The battleground is then cleared, peace.  
Later, white gravestones will pierce the air.  
Now, in perfect peace, the birds bravely sing,  
For those interred, but unable to hear,  
But, they sing anyway, someone may listen.

***Jim Livermore***  
**Nimy Bridge, Belgium**  
**12th April 2003**

## ***Remembering***

***Jack James Astbury-Crimes***  
***Aged 9½ years***

The Soldiers fought courageously for our  
freedom, and died bravely,  
Fought for our country, to win for us,  
They fought in rain and sunshine,  
We will remember.  
Back in Flanders Fields are the remains,  
Of the unknown corpse of a soldier,  
Poppies grow in remembrance,  
We will remember.  
Remembrance from this day on,  
Shall never fade away,  
We will remember.

## ***The Veterans' Badge***

**T**hese attractive badges are available to women and men who served in the armed forces during two world wars.

Launched as part of the WWII 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorations, the badge is intended to help recognition of wartime veterans and the contribution they have made.

The badges are issued free and non-members are invited take advantage of the offer. If there is sufficient demand, it is hoped that eligibility will be extended to veterans of more recent campaigns.

If you are eligible, please contact Mark Hudson on 01858 434436.