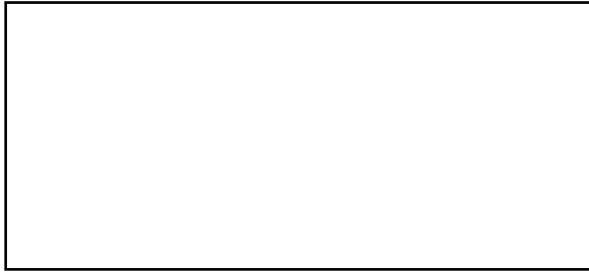




In Touch, Too



Reg.. Charity No 219279



The Market Harborough Branch
Bimonthly News Sheet

Issue 13

August 1999

Gloom & Doom?

“Members are losing interest”. “What is the point of arranging events if there is so little support?” “Why should I bother to help if so few others do?” These depressing comments at the July Branch Committee meeting and the August Branch meeting arose because only 5 members were available to run the Coffee Morning on 24th July. The Bowls afternoon on 5th August was also poorly attended.

Any voluntary organisation needs a core of members who are prepared to give time, energy & ideas for the benefit of all its members but it is very easy for the willing few to become less willing when they feel that their efforts are not appreciated or that they are carrying an unfair proportion of the load.

I do not accept, on the evidence of two events, the view that all members of our Branch have become apathetic and that previous helpers have given up. I would remind the pessimists that at the previous Coffee Morning there were 13 members on duty, another 19 gave their support by attending and others who made donations in cash or kind. Despite the dreadful weather, there was a good turnout of members at the Carnival. It must also be noted that the two poorly supported events were in the peak holiday period which will also have caused far fewer members of the public coming to the Coffee Morning.

What is important, is for you to say what kind of events you would take part in or support. Please contact Social Secretary, Bob England (write to 83 Cromwell Crescent or phone MH 464288 between 4.30 & 8pm please) or me, Tom Ashmore (address & phone below) with your ideas and comments.

Coffee Morning - The Plus Side

Despite the disappointment felt by those who ran the event, their efforts did raise over £140 for the Social Fund. They did put the Legion and the Branch in the view of the public. They received potential membership enquiries. They made another link with young people through Andrew Marriott's initiative of bringing two ACF Cadets as helpers. They did a grand job & deserve our thanks.

Bowls (for Beginners)



Those who had put down their names but who did not turn up on 5th August, missed a most enjoyable afternoon.

Three novices were tutored by two experienced players and encouraged by three spectators. A cup of tea in the Park café rounded off a relaxed sunny summer afternoon.

Après Meeting Games

The majority of members who attended the Branch Meeting on 11th August, stayed behind for a “games evening”. Judging by the banter from the table in the corner, Dominoes seemed to be going well. Board games including Scrabble were available, but most people opted for pen & paper games and some for just a drink and a chat. One comment was “ Must do it again, but next time we must have Crib”.

Boer War Centenary

Just inside the gates of the Memorial Gardens is a tablet commemorating the local men who fought in South Africa in the war that started on 11th October, 100 years ago. Were any of your forebears in that conflict?

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Your comments and suggestions are wel-

Want a Lift?

Do you find it difficult to get to meetings or social functions due to lack of transport? Would you come if you could get a lift?



Do you have a spare seat and are you willing to give a lift to another member who wants to go to the same event?

If you need or can offer a lift to a specific event or on a more regular basis, please contact Bob England or me.

Congratulations, Marion

We have read of the recent Leicestershire Police Awards. The dogs may have had the photos but you, our member, Marion Vine have our congratulations on receiving your Commendation. A pity that police work secrecy prevents your story appearing in **In Touch**.

Welcome

At the August Meeting our most recent new members Peggy and Ray Tyler, were made welcome with a few words from our Chairman, the presentation of their badges and applause from the assembled company. Peggy and Ray, we hope you will enjoy taking a full and active part in Branch activities.

www.mktharborrblukvet.net

We are all getting used to seeing these curious bits of gobbledegook in advertisements, on TV, etc. They are, of course, addresses of Internet Web Sites, and the one above is the new address Mark Hudson has arranged for the Branch site. Unlike postal addresses, Internet addresses, such as ours, are much shorter but still try to be reasonably descriptive (& simple to type).

Our site is typical in having links to a number of other relevant sites - a sort of rapid cross-reference system - and an increasing number of other sites provide links to ours. The result is that more and more people are becoming aware of and interested in Market Harborough Branch. For example, Mark recently had enquiries (& compliments!) from Australia and Canada.

Members' stories have appeared on the site since early on. Recently some of Bernard Halsall's photos and background material from his Glider Pilot days have been added. If you have any interesting pictures or stories which could be included, please call Mark on MH 469527.

Virtual pilgrimages?

One enquiry at the Coffee Morning was from a local lady anxious to visit her father's war grave in Bangladesh. Pilgrimages Dept. said that they have no plans to visit Bangladesh and that current advice is to avoid going there. A "visit" to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission web site, yielded an interesting historical and geographical description of the cemetery and a picture of the memorial. A print-out of all this has given comfort to the lady by knowing more of her father's last resting place.

Family History

Percy (known as Bob) Iliffe was a Market Harborough "character" well known as a raconteur with a repertoire of fisherman's tales. He had served in the Leicestershire Regiment in WW1. He was also the grandfather of Bill Crawley's cousin, now living in Canada, and who is writing a history of the Iliffe family. He is anxious to know more about Percy, especially about his time in the Army and has asked for Bill's help. If you can suggest how Bill can get this information, please call him on MH 434809.

DIARY

25th Aug.	Branch Committee Meeting
7th Sept.*	Branch Lunch - 12 noon for 12.30 at the Wheel & Compass, Weston by Welland
8th Sept.	Branch Meeting followed by "Branch Plans for 1999 Poppy Appeal" & buffet
13th Sept.	RAFA Quiz Night- an Open event at the White Horse, Nelson Street. Can we RBL team?
field a	
17th Sept.*	Long Alley Skittles Evening - the Railway Arms, Kibworth. Meet in the bar at 7.30
19th Sept.	Battle of Britain Service, St Dinonyusius Church.
30th Sept.	End of RBL year. Branch accounts close.
1st Oct.	Membership Subscriptions due. Please pay the £6.50 (same as last year) promptly.
15th Oct.*	Annual Dinner at MH Golf Club. £12.50. Please reserve your places soon.
23rd Oct.	Coffee Morning - start collecting items for Tombola & Raffle now!
30th Oct.	Festival of Remembrance - de Montfort Hall

* Ring Bob England, (MH.464288 between 4.30pm & 8pm) for details & to book