

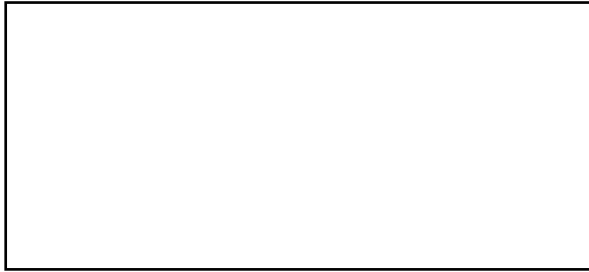


Reg.. Charity No 219279

In Touch, Too



Founded in 1923



The Market Harborough Branch Bimonthly News Sheet

Issue 18

June, 2000

County comes to Market Harborough

The Half-year Leicestershire & Rutland R B L Conference this year was hosted by Market Harborough Branch on Saturday, 24th June. Representatives of 26 of the 66 County RBL and RBL Women's Section branches met in the RC Community Centre Octagonal Hall under the chairmanship of Mr Tony Griffith supported by the Chairman and Secretary of the County Women's Section, RBL County Secretary, & County Field Officer. Our Branch Chairman, welcomed the visitors and on behalf of the Branch congratulated Mr Griffith on his election to National Council. The Branch Standard which was present throughout the afternoon, was dipped by Standard Bearer George Fleming, during the Act of Homage, something not normally done at the half-year conference.

The Guest Speaker was Mr. George Gamble, whose talk on Medals was very well received. Two of the stories were from the talk he gave to the Branch last year.

Points arising in the meeting included:-

- The urgent need for more and better trained Welfare Case Workers.
- Poppy Appeal policy is guided by a small National Steering Group, HQ led & with some Branch members including one from this County.
- At National Conference much time was spent (wasted?) debating 9 alternative proposals for an increase in the Affiliation Fee, ranging from 30p to £4.50. (The £1.50 agreed was reported in Legion Magazine).
- A proposal that affiliation fees be determined by an independent advisor.
- The report of a survey of all Branch Chairman's opinions on the future of the National Conference has been issued.
- A festival of Remembrance will be held at the de Montfort Hall this year. It is being restyled and renamed Remembrance 2000.
- The reiteration of the view that the Women's Section and also the Officers' Association will be integrated with the main body of the RBL

As the host branch we were well represented. Members served refreshments, ran a successful raffle and set up and manned the Branch's unique Poppy Appeal presentation and the Millennium Festival Week display (as shown at the June Branch meeting).

In the words of the County Chairman, "It was a very successful afternoon".

The Conference My Personal Reactions

- Concern that so few visitors met or talked to their hosts. What did we do wrong?
 - Disappointment at the general lack of interest in the displays.
 - Satisfaction from the compliments of those who did look at them.
 - Most of the 40 "Welcome Pack" souvenirs* were taken. I wonder if they were read and found interesting?
 - Annoyance with myself for not providing more raffle tickets.
 - Pleasure that despite this, we made £32.50.
 - Annoyance that although we had asked for the use of the car park, it was full.
 - Disappointment that the acoustics of the Hall amplified kitchen sounds but seemed to attenuate the voices of the speakers.
 - The discovery that tea drinkers greatly outnumbered coffee drinkers, contrary to expectation and thus
- * Each pack contained a copy of Harborough Tourism's brochure "Market Harborough - Historic Town Trail", the last issues of **In Touch & In Touch, Too**, the new Branch brochure, and a message from the

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Your comments and suggestions are welcome

**Trip to Duxford
Imperial War Museum
Saturday, 15th July**

There are still seats available on the coach. Non- members are welcome so if you know of anyone who might be interested, please ask them to phone Bob England on MH 464288 ASAP. Coach fare £7, admission from £3.70 depending on numbers.

**Coach leaves MH
Bus Station at 10.45am**

Teas at Medbourne

It was a beautiful May Bank Holiday afternoon as we sat in the sun outside Medbourne Village Hall enjoying our tea and cakes and chatting to fellow Legion members of Ashley & Weston-by-Welland Branch, whose main fundraising event the occasion was. They were pleased that at least six members of our branch had supported them. We hope they did well.

Coffee at the Theatre

The Coffee Morning on 10th June coincided with the Carnival, so the question was whether this would increase or decrease attendance. In the event more people came and perhaps were more relaxed and spent more. The result a record profit of £267.79, a figure of which all those members who provided items for the stalls & raffle, who helped on the day or who just spent money buying or trying, can be justly proud. Well done!!

Picnic on the Canal

The outing on 15th June had been arranged partly based on the success of the 1998 event. This year Bob England had difficulty in finding enough passengers to fill the boat. However, those who did take the trip had an enjoyable day. I am sorry that my wife and I were on holiday and so missed this nautical occasion.

July Branch Meeting

As was announced at the May and June Branch meetings, the meeting on 12th July will be held at the home of Sir Michael Carlton-Smith, Plough Cottage, Drayton. Those members who indicated that they wished to attend were told at the June meeting what car sharing arrangements had been made. If in doubt, please ring Con Halsall on MH 465314.

To minimise the chance of anyone e.g. a visitor, turning up at the usual venue, the *Harborough Mail* will be asked to insert a suitable notice that there will not be a meeting at the Conservative Club on 12th July.

Andrew Marriott is now actively seeking more sponsors to add to those who have already pledged their support. Ring Andrew on MH 434805 for a form & persuade your friends to help him help the Poppy Appeal.



August Branch Lunch

Scheduled for 8th August at the Wheel & Compass, Weston-by-Welland, the response so far has been disappointing. These lunches have been very successful in the past, don't let them fizzle out through lack of support. Ring Bob England on MH 464288 to say you wish to attend. Say if you need or can provide transport.

June Branch Meeting

Although mention has been made at meetings and in the newsletters of some aspects of what the branch is doing for our Millennium Festival Week, it was felt that members did not have a clear idea of what will happen and what is involved in the meantime.

So, following the usual business session, George Fleming, with the aid of previously prepared display screens, outlined the programme of events starting on Monday 6th November, showed what the Garden of Remembrance would be like, referred to the research for the Book of Remembrance, the form it will take and how it will be presented. With the usual Armistice Day ceremonies & a Band Concert on the Saturday, Remembrance Sunday Service & Parade, a Sunset Ceremony each evening and the Poppy Appeal, it will be a busy week.

Skittles Evening

The initial response for this event, booked at the Old Crown, Fleckney, for 25th August, was poor. There will be further reminders but if there are insufficient numbers by the August branch meeting, the booking will be cancelled. Sign up now by calling Bob England on MH464288 or sign the clipboard at the July or August meeting.

DIARY

12th Jul *	Branch Meeting at Drayton
15th July*	Coach outing to Duxford
15th Jul	"Music for a Summer Evening" - Beaumanor Hall (see May <i>In Touch</i> for details)
22nd Jul	Air Show - RAF Cottesmore (see press ads.)
26th Jul	Branch Committee Meeting
2nd Aug	Millennium Committee- 730pm
8th Aug*	Lunch at Wheel & Compass
9th Aug	Branch Meeting + Buffet
25th Aug*	Skittles - Old Crown, Fleckney
30th Aug	Branch Committee Meeting
23rd Sep**	5 day visit to Normandy.
13th Oct**	Annual Dinner - MH Golf Club

* See Box on this page for details
**Ring Bob England (MH 464288)