

# In Touch

The monthly newsletter founded in 1996

## The Royal British Legion

Registered Charity No. 219279



LIVE ON

### Market Harborough Branch

Founded in 1923

**91**

Years of Caring



**2014: WWI  
Centenary Year**



With thanks to Prime Life Ltd, parent company of Peaker Park Care Village Market Harborough, for printing this issue.

Issue 195  
December 2014

**Next Monthly Branch Meeting**  
7.30 pm **Wednesday 14 January 2015**  
Committee 8 January

Function Room, Conservative Club,  
Fairfield Rd. Market Harborough

## **Branch News**

### **November Branch Meeting**

The very good public support of the Services and Parade on Remembrance Sunday and of the Armistice Day observance was mentioned. The church collection



raised over £700 for the Poppy Appeal.

Secretary, Betty Ramsay, reported on the Poppy Appeal Leicester City football match where she was one of the RBL collectors. It being Armistice Day a silence was observed and the respect shown in the stadium was impressive. The Match Day Magazine had featured the WWI Centenary with articles about the war. It also reported the support the club gives to the Poppy Appeal having originated the annual match eleven years ago which is now widely adopted by clubs throughout the country. This year's income from collections and sales of shirts, etc. was likely to be very good. The Swing Night on 8<sup>th</sup> November had been a success and over £300.

a share of the profit, was presented to the Poppy Appeal Organiser.

He reported that the total for the year would exceed £26,000. The recent street collections were less than last year.

The Chairman's thanks to Les Moore for organising the monthly branch lunches for such a long time was applauded. He also thanked Kathy Morley for taking up the role.

Shane Daly, CO Sea Cadets TS Fernie attended the meeting to mention the event on 12<sup>th</sup> December when the local unit will become independent and he invited members to attend. Youth Officer, Betty Ramsay said that Affiliation with the Branch would also be formalised at the event. (See p8 for when and where)

### **In Touch Distribution**

The Editor appealed for volunteers to help either on a regular or occasional basis and several members kindly offered help. This will allow a revision of the delivery rounds.

### **After Meeting Event**

A PowerPoint Presentation entitled Remembrance had been prepared and was given by Tom Ashmore. Examples from different countries were given of formal observance events and how one is reminded of The Human Cost of

Continued on p 7

Cover Photo  
From a Christmas Card

## **Remember This?** From December 2004 In Touch

### *Just for Fun*

**Never try to outsmart a woman**

A man worked and saved all of his life and was a real miser when it came to his money. Just before he died, he said to his wife, "When I go, I want you to take all my money and put it in the coffin with me. I want to take my money to the afterlife with me". He got his wife to promise him that when he died, she would do as he asked. He eventually died and was lying in the coffin, with his wife sitting there in black, and her friend sitting next to her.

When they finished the ceremony, just before the undertakers got ready

to close the coffin, the wife said, "Wait just a minute!" She came over with a box and put it in the coffin. Then the undertakers locked the lid down, and they rolled it away. So her friend said, "I know you weren't fool enough to put all that money in there with your husband." The loyal wife replied, "Listen, I'm a Christian, I can't go back on my word. I promised him that I was going to put the money in the coffin." "You mean to tell me you put that money in with him!!!!!" "I certainly did" said the wife. "I gathered it all together, put it into my account and wrote him a cheque. If he can cash it, he can spend it!"

**No change there, then**

**Grandad: "All I got in my day was an apple and an orange."**

**Young Wayne: "Did you really. I got a computer and a mobile phone, too!"**



*With acknowledgements to the Spectator for these two cartoons.*

**If it wasn't for the grown-ups, I don't think I'd bother**



## *It was in the Mail*

Some undated cuttings from the Harborough Mail. The pictures are scanned copies but the text has been transcribed (complete with inaccuracies!)



The caption reads, 'Silent Tribute: Constance Halsall (centre), chairman of Market Harborough Royal British Legion, John Cox (left) and George Fleming during the remembrance service in Welland Park, Market Harborough

### **John flies the flag for the County**



Headed a report and this picture of John Cox, with the cup that made him County standard bearer, with Treasurer, George Fleming, Chairman, Arthur Mace, Vice Chairman, Gordon Adnett, Secretary, John Sutton and President, Peter Wilson.

### **Remembering our War Heroes.**

A week-long vigil is underway in Market Harborough to remember the town's 326 soldiers who lost their lives during war.

Every year Market Harborough Memorial Gardens is set aside to remember the fallen soldiers of the First and Second World Wars. The park is the focus of events leading up to Remembrance Sunday, November, 10<sup>th</sup>.

Members of the Royal British Legion Market Harborough branch have planted 326 small wooden crosses in the ground symbolising each soldier. At 4pm every evening the Last Post will be played by musician and Harborough band member, Peter Vine. It is the first time the last Post has been played every evening in the town. On Sunday there will be a ceremony at the Memorial gardens starting at 10.30 am.



The caption reads 'Tribute: Peter Vine, deputy standard bearer, John Cox, standard bearer, George Fleming and chairman. Mark Hudson.

## Campaigners are celebrating after Market Harborough's war memorial is saved.

The plaques at the Market Harborough and District Cottage Hospital in Coventry Road lists the names of 1700 soldiers who left the town to fight in the first World War. Money to build the memorial was raised by public subscription and



● Remembering... Market Harborough Royal British Legion members (from left) Con Halsall, Jim O'Brien, Betty Brownwood, John Dale at the memorial outside the town hospital. (Photo: 2011/02, 10)

the memorial was completed in 1923. When Leicestershire and Rutland Health Care NHS Trust announced its intention to close the hospital last year, members of Market Harborough Branch of the Royal British Legion feared for the future of the memorial.

But the Legion has now been told the memorial and including all the portico which encloses the panels, is safe.

The Melton, Rutland and Harborough Primary Care Trust has agreed to fully fund the repositioning of the memorial and will contact the Legion members for advice on where it should go.

Con Halsall, chairman of Market Harborough branch, said this was good news for Legion members who

had campaigned for the memorial.

Mrs Halsall who is retiring as chairman later this month, said she would like to thank all the people of the town and further afield who had supported her in her role.

'In the last three years as chairman of the Market Harborough branch of the Royal British Legion, one of the most important projects was the millenium year.'

'Such hard work and planning went into it but what a huge success it was and I was particularly proud og the memorial garden.'

'The other main item was preserving the portico and memorial plaques. At the Cottage Hospital which are to be moved.'

*This text and picture appeared in the Harborough Mail in November 2001.*



## WW1 Christmas Truce

Though there was no official truce, roughly 100,000 British and German troops were involved in unofficial cessations of fighting along the length of the Western Front. The first truce started on Christmas Eve, 24 December 1914, when German troops began decorating the area around their trenches in the region of Ypres, Belgium and particularly in Saint-Yvon, where Capt. Bruce Bairnsfather (creator of Old Bill)



described the Truce. The Germans began by placing candles on their trenches and on Christmas trees, then continued the

celebration by singing Christmas carols. The British responded by singing carols of their own. The two sides continued by shouting Christmas greetings to each other. Soon thereafter, there were excursions across No Man's Land, where small gifts were exchanged, such as food, tobacco and alcohol, and souvenirs such as buttons and hats. The artillery in the region fell silent. The truce also allowed a breathing spell where recently killed soldiers could be brought back behind their lines by burial parties. Joint services were held.

With acknowledgements to Wikipedia for this extract  
Editor

## Miscellany

### December WWI Snippets

1914

Nobel Peace Prize not awarded.

1915

Ford makes its one millionth motor car.

1916

Lloyd George becomes Prime Minister.

1917

Hits of the Year: 'For me & my girl' & 'Goodbye-ee'

1918

Railway workers granted an 8 hour day.



### Retired to the Bar

I pointed out two old drunks across the bar from us and told my mate: 'That will be us in ten years time.' He said,

'That's a mirror - dummy'

With acknowledgements to  
*The Pensioner* magazine

War' by memorials, cemeteries and facilities for the living seriously affected by war.

### Sunset Ceremony

This was held daily in the Garden of Remembrance from 3rd to 8th at 4pm. A Standard Bearer from RNA was present. On the last day a good attendance of members of the branch and the public saw and heard two kilted pipers and a drummer and the playing of Last Post and Reveille.



The Royal British Legion  
Harlow Harborough Branch

Remembrance  
**CONCERT**

Performed by  
**The Harborough Band**

Local Director Chris Green

Saturday, 15th November  
**Baptist Church**

In aid of the Poppy Appeal (March 2015)

Church where there was what must have been a record audience. It also produced over £400 for the Poppy Appeal.

**A T C Cadet Enrolment Service** Vice-Chairman and two other members represented the Branch at the occasion on 18th November. A message from the County Youth Officer was read in her absence expressing the Legion's thanks and appreciation for the work of the Squadron.

## LATE XMAS LUNCH



With RAFA and RNA friends  
**13 JANUARY** MEET IN THE  
BAR AT NOON

### MENU

- Supreme of British chicken sat on cheesy mash with a rich tomato sauce laced with chorizo
- Cod loin sat on fried potatoes with a green pea sauce (gf)
- Chunky beef slowly cooked in red wine & root vegetables served with mash potato (gf)
- Roast British turkey with roast potatoes, stuffing, chipolatas, Yorkshire pudding & gravy (can be gf)
- All served with a selection of vegetables  
- - - - -
- Fresh fruit salad with fruity sorbet (gf)
- Vanilla cheesecake topped with compote of kumquat & cranberry with ice cream (v)
- Warm plum pudding with brandy sauce (v)  
- - - - -
- Fresh tea or coffee with chocolate mints

£10 pay on the day

Names and choice of menu to Pat Middleton by 31st December 01858 445827 or [patriciamiddleton@hotmail.com](mailto:patriciamiddleton@hotmail.com)  
Cancellations to Pat or the Angel otherwise payment will be charged

## What's Going On?

### Forthcoming Events

- 12 Dec Sea Cadet unit inauguration and Affiliation to our Branch 7 pm  
St Dionysius Church Hall
- 3 Jan County Conference at Syston.  
Brian Thomas is our delegate
- 13 Jan Late Xmas Lunch at The Angel. See p 7 for menu
- 14 Jan Branch meeting & Talk by Neil Townsend about the Korean War
- 27 Mar Anniversary Dinner at MH Golf Club. Details later.

#### Welfare

If you are aware of any one who qualifies for, and may benefit from the Legion welfare services please contact **Betty Ramsay on 01858 434923**

#### RBL Helpline

is open to everyone, 8am - 8pm, 7 days a week on Freephone **0800 802 8080** for advice and support for serving & ex- service people and dependents.

#### *In Touch* Next Month

Cash Registers & Spanish Civil War, '100 years ago', 'Remember this?', etc.

### Branch Contacts

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#### Branch Website

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

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