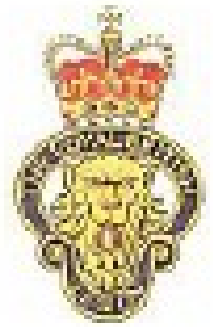


InTouch

The monthly newsletter founded in 1996

The Royal British Legion

Registered Charity No. 210279

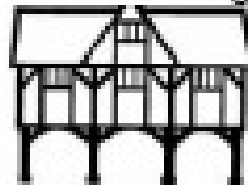


LIVE ON

To the memory of the fallen and the future of the living

92

Years of Caring



Market Harborough Branch

Founded in 1923

Centenary Year of 1915



Great-great grandfather drove something much more modest (p5)

Next Monthly Branch Meeting
7.30 pm Wednesday 12 August
No Committee Meeting in August

Issue 202
July 2015

Function Room, Conservative Club,
Fairfield Rd. Market Harborough

Branch News

June Branch Meeting

The Chairman mentioned that he had visited, and was impressed by, Somerset Legion House, the Poppy Break care home in Weston-super-mare.

At the Special General Meeting, it was unanimously agreed that Husbands Bosworth could be a sub-branch of Market Harborough.

The 'Later Life Matters' event, at which the Legion had a stand, was poorly attended.

A letter had been sent congratulating the ATC on their successes (see last month's issue).

Forthcoming Armed Forces Day events were mentioned (see p 7) .

The 'Ramsay Ramblers' would again take part in the Annual Poppy Walk but without Betty.

The PAO appealed for an organiser for the House-to-House collectors. He also said the 'Forties' Night fund-raising event had been successful, contributing to the current total of about £31,000.

After Meeting Talk

Susan Grogan spoke about her role as an RBL Advice and Information Officer, explaining that it is part of the changes the Legion is making to ensure that members of the ex-service community are aware of and receive the support available to them. This has

involved the creation of Pop In centres manned by staff and volunteers in large towns known to be in areas with a high proportion of potential beneficiaries. In other areas there are locations which an A I O attends at specified times to provide this service locally. In Leicestershire, Susan has established five such Pop In facilities and at Market Harborough she is at the Symington Building from 2pm to 4pm on the second and fourth Monday each month.

Susan mentioned some of the many ways in which the Legion can help the ex-service community. These are outlined in recently published leaflets which were available at the meeting.

Applause followed the presentation and the Chairman thanked Susan for a most interesting and informative talk.

Royal Hospital Chelsea Visit
Chairman John Morley says it was a successful day-out for the 18 branch members and 2 friends who, under the the impressive Pensioner Guide, were able to visit the splendid Dining Hall and the Chapel, both original 17th C buildings designed by Sir Christopher Wren and finally the small museum with its historic display of regimental badges and medals from pensioners and of the very minor changes in their uniforms.

Cover Photo

The Gold State Coach which has been used on the most grand state occasions since it was built in 1762. (from Wikipedia)

Remember These?

How do foreigners ever learn our language?

For example there is a simple two-letter word that perhaps has more meanings than any other two-letter word. That word is "UP"!

It's easy to understand UP, meaning towards the sky or at the top of the list, but in the morning, why do we wake UP?

At a meeting, why does a topic come UP? Why do we speak UP and why are the officers UP for election and why is it UP to the secretary to write UP a report?

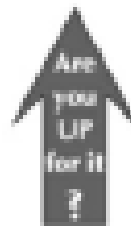
We call UP our friends and we use the word to brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver, we warm UP the leftovers and then clean UP the kitchen. We lock UP the house and someone fixes UP the old car!

The little word can have really special meanings; people stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP an appetite and think UP

excuses! To be dressed is one thing, but to be dressed UP is special!

And UP is often confusing. A drain must be opened UP because it is stopped UP. We open UP a store in the morning and close it UP at night!

In a dictionary, the word UP takes UP to a quarter of a page and can add UP to about thirty definitions. If you are UP to it, you might try building UP a list of the many ways UP is used. It will take UP a lot of your time but you may end UP with a hundred or more!



Post your list to the Editor (look UP the address on the back page), email it or hand it in at the next meeting. The sender of the longest list will be UP for a prize, if I can come UP with something!

Contributed by John Liddell
for the July 2007 Issue



Sheperdess Pat Walker displays the rosettes awarded for her sheep at this year's Blaston Show.

From cover of July 2007 issue

Everybody, Somebody, Nobody and Anybody *A story of four people*

An important job had to be done
Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it
Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it
Somebody got angry because it was Anybody's job
Everybody thought that Anybody could do it
But Nobody realised that Everybody wouldn't do it.
So in the end Everybody blamed Somebody
When Nobody did
What Anybody could have done.

This was in the July 2006 issue headed 'Con's Party Piece'

Coachman

My family's coaching history.
by Nigel Powner

I moved to Market Harborough from Hinckley in July 1996 with the sole purpose in setting up a coach holiday business. During the last 19 years there have been a few changes in the business. I have always been interested in coaches from the age of seven, and my mum still reminds me to this day that I told her one day I would win the UK Coach Driver of the Year Award, which I did in 2004.

The strange thing about all this is that my parents were farmers and I left school at 15 years old to go straight to work on the family farm. I was still fascinated with coaches, and as soon as I was able to, aged 21, I took my PSV test and passed on the first attempt. I remember my dad telling me I would never be without a job for the rest of my life. I worked on the farm and drove coaches part-time for Woods of Leicester until I was 24 years old, and it was then that I decided to set my own coach business up in Hinckley called NWP Travel. This was sold out to Midland Fox (later called Arriva) four years later, and I worked as a Manager for them for about twelve months.

After this, I decided to get back into operating my own coach business which I called Powner Travel of Hinckley. When I moved to Market

Harborough I re-named the business Market Harborough Travel. As I wanted to set up my own holiday programme and there was a gap in the market here I changed it to 'Exclusive Holidays' of Market Harborough, sold my coaches, I now hire those from G. H. Watts which I drive on my own tour programme .



Recently my wife Sandie has been researching my family history on my mother's side of the family (Gattrell). What she uncovered was amazing and has answered many questions about where I get my fascination with coaches from. I already knew that, before the War, my Great Grandfather Frank Gattrell had his own taxi business with 25 cars in Salford, Manchester and that my Grandad Gattrell drove for him, but the war changed all that and Frank Gattrell had to close the business.

Frank was a pilot but was too old for combat so he transported planes from base to base for the RAF. My Grandad Paul joined the RAF as an engineer and was posted aboard the Air Sea Rescue Vessels patrolling the British Isles for the duration of the war. When we began to look further back in the

Gattrell family history we discovered that Frank's father William Edmund Gattrell was a domestic coachman who worked at Swinfen Hall, near Tamworth. This was where Frank grew up and he initially began working as a chauffeur – this would have been the time when motor-cars were



coming to prominence and it was amazing to trace two generations of the family over this transition.

Looking further back, William Gattrell was one of 8 children born to George and Sophia Gattrell, 4 brothers and 4 sisters. All four brothers followed their father into his trade as a domestic coachman, and at least one of his sisters also married coachmen. George Gattrell was born in 1832 and his father was a carrier (a person who moved goods with horse and cart). George began in service at a young age and worked as a coachman for Roger Eykyn, a stockbroker and MP for Windsor, for all his working life – over 40 years. Roger Eykyn had property in Grosvenor Street in London as well as the now demolished Gayton House in Northamptonshire. Sophia Gattrell passed away not long

after their youngest son was born and George remarried Julia Parsons and after she died in childbirth, George remarried again to Emma Side, who worked as the cook at Gayton House.

George and Emma retired to Eling, Hampshire, the village where George was born, and George became a very wealthy man. At the time of his death in 1913, when he was killed, somewhat ironically, in a motor car accident, he owned 11 houses outright. We do not know where he got his money from – was it from listening to Roger Eykyn's advice as he worked as a coachman?

I do feel an affinity with George, who seems to be the root of our family's association with the travel business, and we have been able to visit George's grave in Eling, which luckily still exists. It is amazing that the path I have chosen in life which, at the



time, seemed so different from my family's business, actually seems to have its roots much further back in our family history.

Air Sea Rescue

Prior to the Second World War, there was still no fully functional coordinated British air-sea rescue organisation for rescuing aircrew from the sea. The aircrew relied on the High Speed Launches (HSL) established at flying boat bases. On 14 January 1941, the first air-sea rescue organisation was set up (the Directorate of Air Sea Rescue Services). The aircraft used included Westland Lysanders and the Supermarine Walrus.

The British developed the first air-dropped lifeboat; a 32-foot (10 m) wooden canoe-shaped, self righting boat, designed in 1943 by Uffa Fox to be dropped, from a height of 700 feet, by an RAF Avro Lancaster, for the rescue of aircrew downed in the Channel. It is shown here rigged



for sailing, in front of a Vickers Warwick, the rescue aircraft which was normally used.

From extracts in a Wikipedia article

Miscellany

July 1915 News Items

- 2nd 40,00 have volunteered so far for work.
- 2nd German submarines sink 4 British steam ships off Cornwall & Ireland.
- 9th General Botha accepts surrender of all German Forces in S W Africa.
- 15th 200,000 South Wales miners strike for more pay.
- 17th 40,000 women demonstrate for right to help war effort.
- 20th Total UK war casualties 330,995.



A McGill postcard from WWI. 'I wonder who's kissing her now?'

Dear Mother, this war's horrible. Sell the pig and buy me out. John.
Dear John, pig's gone. Soldier on."

An officer asks an Aussie, 'Did you come here to die?'
'No sah, I came yesterdie'.

Armed Forces Day Events

Coffee Morning

Sea and ATC Cadets, were on duty with RAFA, RNA and RBL members. Some other members attended as visitors but there were fewer people from the general public than usual.

Flag Raising

Armed Forces Week was launched, at a ceremony with our and other Standards, some branch members and a few members of the public, by the VIPs who later posed for this photo published in the Harborough Mail.



Welland Park

The event was opened by Mr Gordon Arthur, High Sheriff of Leicestershire, accompanied by his wife and a welcome speech by last year's Carnival Queen. Standards present were of the Sea and ATC Cadets, RBL, RAFA and RNA. The Branch stand was one of many around the field and the full programme of entertainment and displays provided interest for the visitors. After the traditional Sunset Ceremony, Harborough District Council Chairman, Cllr Michael Rook closed a successful 2015 AFD.

LUNCH AT THE ANGEL



for good food and good company

4 AUGUST **MEET IN THE BAR AT NOON** **Menu**

Roast leg of Welsh lamb
w/ Yorkshire pudding, roast potatoes
& gravy (can be gf)

Supreme of salmon
sat on mash potato draped w/ white
wine & dill sauce (gf) (v)

Aubergine filled w/ vegetables
glazed w/cheese sat on a pool of
tomato sauce & fried potatoes (v) (gf)

All served with a selection of vegetables

Home cooked ham salad garnished
w/hard-boiled egg & warm new
potatoes (gf)

-|-|-|-|-

Fresh fruit salad w/ice cream (gf) (v)

Profiteroles drizzled w/chocolate &
garnished w/strawberries (v)

Individual summer pudding w/clotted
cream & clotted cream ice cream (v)-

-|-|-|-|-

Tea or Coffee and Mints

£ 8.50 Pay on the Day

To book, contact Kathie Morley, email
kathiemorley@talktalk.net

or phone 01858 419714 -

To cancel, ring **The Angel** (01858
462702) before 10 am on the day or
you will be charged

What's Going On?

Forthcoming Events

- 19 Jul Poppy Walk by Ramsay Ramblers who ask you to sponsor them
- 12 Aug Branch meeting + an event TBA
- 14 Oct Branch Annual General Meeting + buffet.
- 24 Oct Poppy Appeal Launch 10.30 am on The Square
- 31 Oct Poppy Appeal Raffle Draw
- 11 Nov Branch Meeting + poetry reading

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 0808 802 8080 for advice and support for serving & ex- service people and dependents.

In Touch Next Month

'Dad', 'Miscellany, Remember This?', News, etc.

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Branch Website

www.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/market-harborough

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