

In Touch

The monthly newsletter founded in 1996

Issue 216
September 2016

The Royal British Legion



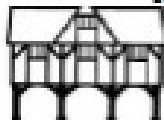
Registered Charity No. 219279

LIVE ON

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

93

Years of Caring



**Market
Harborough
Branch**

Founded in 1923

Centenary Year of 1916



**Why has this
yacht got a
RBL Logo?**

Page 4 explains

Next Branch Meeting - AGM
7.30 pm Wednesday 12 October
Committee 6 October

Function Room, Conservative Club,
Fairfield Rd. Market Harborough

Branch News

August Branch Meeting

It was well attended by members and some guests. Agenda items dealt with included The Chairman stating that following the County Chairman election, John Standish had resigned from the County Executive; nothing further to report about the Committee dealing with the future of the Hospital Memorial Portico; the future form of the Branch Anniversary meal will be decided after hearing members views at the next meeting; the Secretary had received information including the need for a Community Support Volunteer: brief statements about the Poppy Appeal need for volunteers, the August lunch and September menu; the Standard Bearer who was present mentioned her activities during the month; In Touch included the AGM Nomination form and was ready for distribution.

After Meeting Poetry Reading

A mixture of 19 poems read by 14 readers made an interesting and enjoyable session. Some readers had chosen their own poem or poems but other there asked to read what had been selected for them. The Internet had been the source of some unusual verses and were fitted fairly logically into the programme. This year's session was more lighthearted than

last year's with some poems causing laughter from the audience.

At the end, thanks were given to Tom Ashmore and Betty Ramsay for producing what had been a success. There was a request for another poetry reading next year.

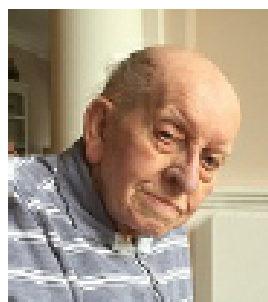
George Seward

We have heard from his son, Peter, that George has recently moved to a care home near where he and his sister live making visiting much easier and more frequent. George is settling in quite well and should now have an even higher standard of care. His new address is Bricklehampton Hall, Bricklehampton, Near Pershore, Worcestershire. WR10 3HQ. He had another minor stroke a few months back which has weakened him a bit on his left side but, apart from that and being a bit sleepy, he's still able to hold a conversation and crack

jokes (!!)

and to follow what's going on around him.

As a Branch member he receives In Touch but with it I include a past issue



of which he was the Editor.

Cover Photo

Shackleton's Expedition ship, Endeavour, locked in and being crushed by the Antarctic ice - one of many photos on <http://www.coolantarctica.com/>

Remember These? From *In Touch* May 1997

B T Global Challenge Yacht Race

Pause to Remember, the sponsored RBL entry was running 7th in the field of 14 when she reached New Zealand and two of our Branch members were there to greet her! Betty and Tom Jeacock were visiting their daughter and were able to get to Wellington to see the yacht. She had improved her position to 5th place when she reached Sydney. Near disaster struck on the next leg when the boom broke, but she reached Cape Town safely though in 13th position. By 8th May, on the 6000 mile leg to Boston, she was lying 9th. A message of congratulation and best wishes has been sent from the Branch, via HQ, to the skipper & crew.

The County Jewellers

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THANKS

*The Editors are truly grateful for the support given to the Branch by the local businesses who have paid for advertising in **In Touch**. The revenue will go a long way towards the cost of production.*

Poet's Corner

Poetry has been avoided in previous issues of *In Touch*, as the "Eskimo Nell" type of poem is apt to creep in. But the following is only a shade risqué. It is from our man in Thorpe Langton (John Dilks) who says he was given a copy on a train midway across Canada.

The Salmon Saga

I hesitate to be unkind
But the salmon has a one track mind
Once every season full of fire
He swims up stream higher and higher
From dawn to dusk and dusk to dawn
From morn to night and night to morn
Up rocks and rapids, up streams and hills
Up high cascades, up grassy glades
Up canyons steep, through waters deep
Up stones and rocks, up dams and locks
From day to night from dark to light-
Until at last on one bright dawn
He gets there just in time to spawn.

Now having done his salmon duty
Now having won his salmon cutie-
And weary from his trip up town
In quiet waters he will drown
Pondering with his dying bubble
Just why sex is so much trouble!

Pause to Remember

The RBL named entry in the 1996/97 Global Challenge Yacht Race

The Global Challenge was a round the world yacht race run by Challenge Business, the company started by Sir Chay Blyth (who, in 1971, had been the first person to sail alone around the world). It was held every four years, and in a fleet of one-design, 67 feet long steel yachts. With a professional skipper and crewed by 13 ordinary men and women who have paid to take part. It was unique in that the race took the westbound route around the world round Cape Horn and through the Southern Ocean against prevailing winds and currents - often referred to as the 'wrong way' route.

In 1996 the 14 yachts bore names of, or associated with, commercial or charity organisations such as Toshiba, Commercial Union and Save the Children.

Pause to Remember was the Royal British Legion's yacht chosen as a message to millions asking them to remember those who died in conflict in this century's wars. The previous year 1995, saw the 50th anniversary of VE and VJ Days, and the Legion successfully used the opportunity to

promote the central message of remembrance and in particular encouraging the Two Minutes Silence with individuals and organisations across the country, not previously generally observed. The French and the Belgians already observed the silence at 11 am on the 11th day of the 11th month and it was the Legion's campaign goal to introduce such observance in the UK. Today the Legion is seen as the custodian of remembrance, regarded as one of the four pillars of its activities, but in 1996 it was just the Poppy Appeal and the annual Festival of Remembrance of which the public was aware.



The decision to take part in the BT Global Challenge offers the opportunity to take

the yacht in Legion livery round the world carrying the message of remembrance. It also allowed the ex-service organisations in ports of call to get involved and benefit from the Legion's entry. Sponsoring the cost of Pause to Remember were a number of commercial underwriters including the retail chain Debenhams, medical agency insurance Cinicare and two defence organisations, Serco and Brown and Root.

Reflecting Legion's own work, Skipper, Tom O'Connor - himself a Captain in the Irish Air Corps – said "I and my crew are honoured to be sailing a yacht in Legion livery. The organisation carries out a great deal of good charitable work and we are very happy to be associated with it"

Also in the crew was Henry Pritchard, one of the oldest competitors, being a dentist, Henry contributes to the high level of medical support on Pause to Remember, which also had a doctor and vet on board.

The race started at Southampton on 29th September 1996 with the first port of call at Rio do Janeiro. After a stop-over of 22 days the fleet started the second leg, heading, round Cape Horn, across the Pacific for Wellington, New Zealand, 6,600 miles away. By chance, our branch member, Tom Jeacock was in New Zealand visiting his son and during the 41 days stop-over he saw the fleet in port but was unable to go aboard Pause to Remember. As a souvenir he bought, and still has, the very comprehensive publication from which, some of the information for this article is taken.

The next leg was the shortest, only 1230 miles to Sydney, followed by

6200 miles to Cape Town but half way there the boom on Pause to Remember snapped. They had no choice but to use their trisail until, in a bit of DIY, two crew members had made a repair but which made the boom shorter. It was still intact when they sailed into Cape Town having survived several storms with wind speeds in excess of 52 mph but of course had lost time. The next leg was to Boston, the longest at 7000 miles and after quite a short time ashore the fleet left for the 3000 miles to Southampton on 29th June 1997.

The first yacht to cross the 'finishing line' on 15th July 1997 was Group 4 in a combined lapse time of 161 days, 5 hours 25 minutes and 18 seconds (such precision seems strange for such an event). Pause to Remember was placed 10th in just over 172 days, 19 hours. Although Time and Tide was the last home it was crewed by disabled, mainly military, men and women. the first to sail around the world.

There were two more Global Challenges, 2000/1 and 2004/5 For these races new 70 feet long yachts were used but before another race could be organised Clay Blyth's business closed. Some of the yachts were sold and one is now in use at Cardiff by an organisation to provide disadvantaged young people the experience of sailing.



Other Round the World Journeys

By Sea

The first recorded circumnavigation of the globe was in 1519 to 1522 by the expedition led by Ferdinand Magellan a Portuguese Explorer, commissioned by the king of Spain to find an alternative way to reach the East Indies Spice Islands. He went the 'wrong way', passing Cape Horn through what is now known as the Magellan Strait into and then across the Pacific Ocean.

Captain James Cook made three voyages in the research ship, HMS Endeavour in the late 1700s to map and claim places for Britain as he sailed around the world.

By Land

In more recent times many people have walked round the world, some to raise funds for charity, but in 2003 a 57 years old woman did it running. Adventurous cyclists have also been prompted to accept the challenge of this kind of long distance on the saddle. Plans were made to ride 'in the saddle' on horseback but it is not known how successful this was. 'Top Gear' inspired car drivers have also made these very long journeys.

By Air

Non-stop by Balloon was a first and so, but with several stops, was the flight of the Solar powered plane.

Miscellany

September 1916 News Items

- 2nd 8 hour working day introduced in USA
- 4th 75% of German East Africa now under Allied control
- 15th First use of tanks in warfare successful in the Somme
- 16th Britain and France recognise the provisional government in Czechoslovakia
- 24th Naturalist, John Burroughs says moving pictures people of brain power
- 24th Village PC arrests Zeppelin crew in Essex
- 29th A meatless day proposed to combat food price rises

A Cooperism

Phone answering machine message -
"...If you want to buy marijuana, press the hash key..."



Sorry, We can't email your pizza as an attachment"

Wellington Bomber Crash follow-up

In the July Issue it was reported that the Canadian Legion member, Peter Wolfendale had asked for help in locating where the plane piloted by his wife's relative had crashed 'near Welham'.

On 3rd August, Peter and his wife, Janice, visited the area and I, with three members of the MH Railway Association, met them near the Gate House in Bowden Lane. One of the MH RA, as a boy remembered a crash near there and he took us to where he said the plane came down. His recollections in some ways conflict with the evidence of Peter's research so the exact location where Janice's relative died remains a mystery.

However, I got the impression from talking to her and Peter that now they



had not been into the actual field where it happened.

had been to and walked in the area it was not important that they



John Chamberlain

We have to report that he died on 29th June. John was known to few Branch members but he did write for In Touch about serving in the Royal Marines on HMS Belfast in 1947 following the Chinese Yangtse incident. (See Issue 30, March 2001)

County Newsletter

Most of what the acting County MSO has written is information for Branch Officers but for Members there is a request for runners for fund raising events and a reference and link to, a veterans' magazine, *Sandbags Times*.

LUNCH AT THE ANGEL



for good food and good company

4 OCTOBER MEET IN THE
BAR AT NOON

MENU

Roast Leg of Lamb, Chicken Supreme in smoked bacon, Loin of Cod, Falafel balls in tagine sauce. Waffle, stewed plums & ice cream, Vanilla cheesecake w/ cherries & ice cream, Fruit salad w/ sorbet. Tea or coffee & mints. £9.25

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

- 17 Sep RAFA Coffee Morning
18 Sep Battle of Britain Service, Ltle Bowden Church, 10.45 am
12 Oct Branch AGM + Buffet
15 Oct Coffee Morning at Theatre for Poppy Appeal
29 Oct Festival of Remembrance @ De Montfort Hall
29 Oct Poppy Appeal Launch on The Square
9 Nov Branch Meeting + talk
11 Nov Armistice Day events @ Welland Park & The Square
12 Nov Festival of Remembrance at Albert Hall. If you wish to go please contact Betty Ramsay.

Welfare

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

RBL Helpline

is open to everyone, 8am - 8pm, 7 days a week on 0808 802 8080 for advice and support for serving & ex- service people and depend-

In Touch Next Month

'The Workhouse', Miscellany, Remember This?, News, etc.

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Branch Website

www.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/

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