

In Touch

The monthly newsletter founded in 1996

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 1917



What is
this
doing in
In
Touch?
Page 4
explains

Next Monthly Branch Meeting

7.30 pm **Wednesday 12 April**

Committee 2 March

Function Room, Conservative Club,
Fairfield Rd. Market Harborough

Issue 221
February 2017

Branch News

January Branch Meeting

The 30 members present heard the Chairman say that concerns about possible legal action against ex-service personnel must only be voiced by individuals not in the name of Branch or RBL. It was reported that a structural survey of the Memorial Portico was awaited. Anniversary Dinner would include entertainment and 48 people had attended the successful 'Tri-service' lunch. Reporting on the County Conference at Ashby de la Zouch, Brian Thomas said that he was one of only 10 branch delegates, that there were 30 visitors including our President and Chairman, and 8 Standards (our Hilary Brazil apologised for her absence), that 8 new Committee members had been nominated and confirmed, that County President's Certificates had been awarded to Keith Hassall and Bob Hendry for services to TRBL and a County Certificate to Betty Ramsay which Brian Thomas collected in her absence to be presented at the Branch meeting, and that the guest speaker was Diane Mountford from Blind Veterans. An updated Membership list from HQ was awaited. Poppy Appeal money was still being received adding to the current total of nearly £23,000. There would be no branch lunch in March. Ideas for the 2017 Armed Forces Day were invited.

After Meeting Talk

Hannah Dove the newly appointed Youth Commissioner for the District Scouts had with her Jack Sawford, and Georgie Dove, Explorer Scouts and Clodagh McGeachy from 1st Bowdens Scouts. Jack, a capable and confident speaker, spoke of time spent in Japan during the Jamboree, with some 30,000 scouts from across the world, and particularly of the weekend he had spent with a family. He and the others



Scouts Emblem

also talked about the local Frazer Shield, held locally each year and other planned trips for the future.

Hannah referred to the congratulatory letter from Bear Grylls, Chief Scout, published in the *Harborough Mail* recently and which also stated that the *Harborough Scout Group* had chosen to focus on dementia within the Scouts' project *A Million Hands* (i.e. a million Scouts).

After questions Dave Prior, PAO, expressed thanks for the help given by the Explorer Scouts with House to House collections. At the end, applause indicated how well the presentation had been appreciated.

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Cover Image

From one of the photos in the gallery of the 100 Club website
www.the100club.co.uk/

Remember This? (From January 2007)



You are never too old to enjoy St Valentine's Day

Vigilant members of the

branch will have noticed that the next meeting is on 14th February, which is, of course, the well-known Saint's Day. When this date was made known at the January Branch meeting, an unofficial sub-committee was hastily formed to consider what could be done to mark this auspicious occasion.

As a result of their deliberations, it was decided that Members planning to attend the February meeting be requested to wear distinctive additions to their normal attire in the following manner: The

Ladies are to enhance their natural beauty with a floral

buttonhole, natural or artificial.

Gentlemen are to forego their Legion neckwear and sport a bow tie, the more colourful and gaudy, the better.



It is hoped that Members will enter into the spirit of the occasion and brighten up a dreary winter's evening. The Editor's camera will be primed to record the joyous proceedings.

Any comments regarding the above should be addressed to the ad hoc committee and certainly not to your entirely blameless Editor. The guilty parties are Pat and John Walker and John Cox..

Did this actually happen? Ed

Advertising Slogans

A Mars a day helps you work,
rest and play.

The future's bright, the future's
Orange.

Murraymints, Murraymints, they'r
too good to hurry mints

When did dancing become uncool?

An occasional report from my sixties

by Malcolm Ashmore

We were at the 100 Club in central London the other day, New Year's Eve it was. Some of you might know this venue: it has been hosting live music (jazz, blues, rock, punk, and whatever's hot today) for 60 odd years. All the greats have played there. They still do. It is the longest-running continuous venue of its kind in the world, according to itself (www.the100club.co.uk/).



Anyway, the gig was fairly old fashioned: the remnants of Dr Feelgood, an Essex R&B outfit who were big in the late 70s and 80s; remember, anyone? By 31 December 2016, they were past their best, certainly, with just the drummer from the original four-piece, the others having Departed..... Still it was fun, loud and fast. Just what we were after.

The audience, just a couple of hundred revellers, many also past their best, had a good time; probably. This was

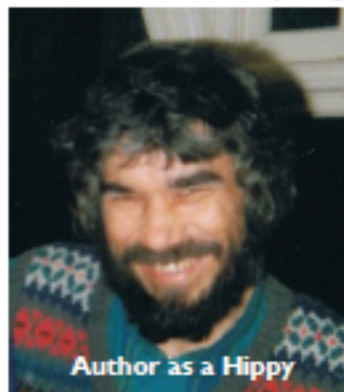
oddly hard to assess, though, because almost everyone was standing stock still, only moving to clap at numbers' end. Hardly an active toe discretely tapping anywhere. Except for me and my lover (wife) of course. We were getting it on like we all do in Colombia, where we live – one of the many delights of that misunderstood country. Absolutely no *de facto* age apartheid, as there is in the UK - in fashionable places hip with the affluent youth, that is; and the 100 Club, bless its cotton socks, has never been that. In my adopted home, everyone, kids to oldsters (like me), expect to Dance! All night! Only pausing to drink some more *cerveza y/o ron!* Partying is a major Colombian skill.

But (even) in that sweaty basement club full of the older style of music lover, dancing was simply Not Done. So much so, that at one point, a Total Stranger (male) started, parodically,



'dancing with me'. Unpleasant. Almost ruined my evening.

So, the question is, when did this happen? When did dancing become uncool? When I was 'young and easy



Author as a Hippy

under the apple boughs', playing in rock bands, going to parties featuring in g sounds like Free's 'All Right Now', The Who's 'Won't Get Fooled Again' or even Lynyrd Skynyrd's 'Free as a Bird' repeated endlessly on the ol' Dansette, dancing was strongly featured – indeed, the whole point - however embarrassing trying to do so was to certain adolescent males.

Interestingly, when I googled the title of this piece, I found I had been pre-empted:

"...rock fans have lost their happy feet. No longer is the rock show a throng of teens trotting out new dance moves. It's no longer a battlefield of bodies slamming against each other. At your normal concert nowadays - from the tiniest rock dive to massive arena shows - the audience is a static entity. Arms aren't thrown in the air; they're

folded across the chest or buried in pockets.

When did rock move from a nubile orgy to a stationary spectator event? How did rockers lose their groove?" (<http://www.imputor.com/press.php?pressid=126>)

Unfortunately, the author of *How dancing in rock became uncool*, Troy Johnson, cites bands and movements well beyond my ken (once again, I am just too old) in his (probably) interesting attempt to answer our question. So I am afraid we will have to make do without an answer. But then, I have always found questions more interesting* than answers. I wonder if you agree. Do you?

*Though this depends on how interesting the question is, of course. Here's a deeper one: why (and how) has 'cool' become such a tyrant? Answers please (if you feel the urge) to m.t.ashmore@lboro.ac.uk...

When dancing was cool.

In the rave culture of electronic dance music, vast crowds may engage in 'free' dance, uncoordinated with those around them. This is in contrast to the more formalised 'participatory' dance such as a line, circle or square dance, or a partner dance such as is common in Western ballroom dancing, which is undertaken primarily as social interaction or exercise of the participants.

Weather Eye

A cutting from The Times 18/11/2013

Typhoon activity seems to fluctuate over the decades and in the 1940s were particularly severe. In December 1944 during WW2, the US 3rd Fleet commanded by Admiral William Halsey was stationed 300 miles east of Luzon after supporting the American invasion of the Philippines. The fleet was running dangerously low on fuel, and as the ships refuelled the winds picked up and the seas grew rough until eventually the operation had to be abandoned. The fleet set sail but unfortunately headed straight into an intense typhoon.

The storm was so small, though, that ships on the outer flanks of the fleet escaped the winds altogether. Others headed straight into the centre and were hit with ferocious winds, possibly gusting, over 150mph. Huge waves tossed the ships about and aircraft carriers' planes broke their moorings, collided and burst into flames or fell overboard, with a total of 146 planes lost. The aircraft carrier *Monterey* exploded as the aircraft below decks smashed into each other and one of the men fighting the blaze was Lt Gerald Ford, later President of the US. Ford later recalled how he was nearly thrown overboard as the ship rolled around was sent below decks to assess the fire, which he did, and the fire was eventually contained.

The destroyers suffered the worst

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Miscellany

February 1917 News Items

- 3rd USA breaks diplomatic relations with Germany
- 6th Scheme for non-military service for women announced
- 7th All US citizens in Germany held as government hostages
- 10th Possible Jewish colony in Palestine discussed with government
- 15th French government says restaurants must only serve two courses & only one meat
- 22nd National trust acquires 500 years lease of parts of Exmoor
- 24th Secret German telegram asking Mexico to declare war on USA published



February - Snowdrop time

Valentine Humour

Did Adam and Eve have a date?
No, but they did have an apple.
What do squirrels give for
Valentine's day?
For-get-me-nuts
What did the light bulb say
to the switch
You turn me on.

From the Archives

Office Holders 1989 to 1997

President

Col J D Hignett 1989 - 1994
P H Wilson 1995 - 1997

Vice President

K Stimpson 1991 - 1997
W G Over 1991
P H Wilson 1992 - 1994

Chairman

P H Wilson 1989 - 1990
J Cox 1991 - 1992
G Adnett 1993 & 1996
A Mace 1994 - 1995
T Ashmore 1997

Vice Chairman

G Adnett 1989 - 1992
& 1994 & 1995
B Halsall 1993
T Jeacock 1996 & 1997

Secretary

P H Wilson 1989
Mrs C A Poore 1990
Mrs R Fulford 1991
Mrs G Taylor 1992 & 1993
J Sutton 1994 & 1995
A W Marriott 1996
F D Fulford 1997

Treasurer

K Stimpson 1989 - 1993
P H Wilson 1994 - 1997

Welfare Officer

Mrs J Bowley 1991 - 1993
P H Wilson 1995 - 1997

Standard Bearer

J Cox 1989 - 1994
G Fleming 1995 - 1997

Poppy Organiser

K Stimpson 1989 - 1993
P H Wilson 1994 - 1997

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Anniversary Dinner Dance

The entertainment after the meal is by The Dolce Sisters, a popular local singing group who will perform some of our old favourites and any requests which you may have. Don't just sit and listen but get up and dance!! Come and make our 94th Birthday celebration an evening to be enjoyed by all. If you have any questions please contact Pat Middleton 01858 445827 patriciamiddleton@hotmail.com

LUNCH	
AT THE	
ANGEL	
for good food and good company	
4 APRIL	MEET IN THE
	BAR AT NOON
Menu will be in the March Issue	

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damage because many had fuel tanks unevenly balanced after the aborted refuelling and three of the capsizes and sank. Seven other ships were seriously damaged and almost 800 men lost, more devastating than the Battle of Midway.

A Navy court of enquiry found that Halsey had committed an error of judgement sailing into the typhoon, but escaped sanctions. And yet he repeated the same mistake in early June 1945 when his fleet sailed into another Typhoon east of Okinawa, and his fleet suffered 33 ships damaged, 76 planes destroyed and 6 men killed. Again he escaped sanctions

What's Going On?

Forthcoming Events

- 8 Mar Anniversary Dinner Dance
(in lieu of Branch Meeting)
@ Conservative Club. 7pm
for 7.30. See page 7
- 4 Apr Lunch at The Angel
- 8 Apr RNA Coffee Morning @ MH
Theatre
- 12 Apr Branch Meeting and talk
- 10 May RNA-Peterborough Dog
racing & Dinner 6pm £20
- 24 Jun Armed Forces Day @ Leics
Cathedral
- 24 Jun RNA Cheese & Wine
- 25 Jun MH Armed Forces Day

Welfare

If you are aware of anyone who may benefit from the Legion welfare services ring Betty Ramsay on 01858 434923

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 dependents or visit MH Pop In Centre which is at the Library 10 am to 12 noon on the last Tuesday of each month

In Touch Next Month

'Digital photography arrives . . .',
Miscellany, Remember This?, News, etc

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Branch Website

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

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