

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



Market Harborough Branch

Founded in 1923

Centenary Year of 1918



Beautiful architecture carved from the rock face in Petra, the ancient area now one of the new 7 wonders of the world. See page 4 for who visited it recently.

Next Monthly Branch Meeting
7.30 pm **Wednesday 11 July**
Committee 5 July

Issue 237
June 2018

Function Room, Conservative Club,
Fairfield Rd. Market Harborough

Branch News

May Branch Meeting

Sara Whitley-Kinzett resumed her role as branch secretary.

The 24 members present heard John Morley mention his use of the **Poppy Van** and recommended others to do so. Members were asked to respond to the survey **questionnaire** ASAP. Details of events commemorating the **end of WWI** would be available later. Publicity was in hand for the **MH Remembrance and Poppy Walk** for which prior registration was required, but on the day (10th June) signing in was at 9.30 am. Volunteers were needed. Sponsorship by local businesses was appreciated. The wish of the branch and the Portico Group that the **Hospital Memorial Portico** should remain in situ had been made known to representatives of the HDC at a Branch Committee meeting to which they had been invited. Insurance for those on **GP90** required disclosure of pre-existing medical conditions. Details of HDC funds for **Remembrance Tide 2018** were awaited. The Branch had applied for a grant from the **SwiMarathon** committee and received £50. It had been agreed that the **Amalgamation of Husbands Bowsworth** with ours would be delayed until after Remembrance Tide. It had been

agreed to accept a donation of £100 from the Officers Mess at RAF Wittering for a **picture given to the Poppy Appeal**. A meeting of **Youth Leaders** had been poorly attended and another would be arranged. Present Branch admin systems satisfied the new **Data Protection Law**. **Membership** was 129. Donations in memory of the late Keith Bowley had been received. **Branch Community Support (Welfare)** visits were still being made. There were 24 people at the May **Branch Lunch**. Members receiving the **May In Touch** would also receive a copy of the survey questionnaire.

After Meeting Event

The interesting Quiz which was well presented by Pauline and Colin McIntyre was well received by the Members present

National Conference

The Branch was represented at this year's event, held in Belfast, by Delegate, Chairman John Standish and Standard Bearer, Hilary Brazil. Their reports will appear in the July Issue of In Touch.

Branch news continued on p7

Cover Image

Taken from Wikipedia as the photo taken from the same position by Pat Middleton did not show the full height of the structure.

Remember this from June 2008

Poppy Appeal Awards



Our Poppy Appeal Organiser, Caroline Windsor, hosted a ceremony held on Saturday, 24 May to recognise the dedicated service of long-serving voluntary collectors.

Certificates, which are awarded for every five years service, were presented by Cllr Brian Smith, Harborough District Council Chairman, to twenty-eight collectors.

The current holder of the long-serving record is Dick Fulford, who has been supporting the Poppy Appeal as a collector and in other ways for no less than sixty years. Hot on Dick's heels are Maurice Stanton, who has notched up fifty years, Jessie Gilbert with forty and the local Army Cadet Force Unit close behind with 38 years.

Our guests included Peter Roffey, RBL County President, and local MP Edward Garnier.

In thanking the Volunteers, Caroline announced the current total raised this year - a magnificent result:

£23,679

County Standards Parade in Harborough

Market Harborough Branch hosted Leicestershire & Rutland County's 51st Annual Standard



Bearers Association Rededication Service in St Dionysius Church on Sunday, 1 June. Twenty-two Standard Bearers and members of the RBL marched to the Church led by the

1084 Squadron Air Training Corps Band. The rededication service

was conducted by the Branch Chaplain, Reverend Richard Brand. The Last Post was superbly played in Church by two ATC buglers. There was an excellent turn-out with 150 in the Congregation.

A Cruise on Queen Mary 2

by Pat Middleton

Back from my cruise so still reeling from the culture



standing by the gangway carrying trays of icy champagne. Was

shock from lap of luxury to having to make my own breakfast!! I had a wonderful time. We started with two

this a mirage - no - a reality. It made a perfect end to the day.



nights in Dubai and attending a black tie dinner with entertainment by Elaine Page in the garden of that hotel that looks like a sail, it kept changing colour as the

evening wore on (no comment please). Petra, one of the modern seven wonders of the world, it was amazing. The bus dropped us at the coach park and then it was about two miles walk to the actual site over cobbles and very rough ground - downhill. It was very crowded but very much worth the effort. However on the walk back - uphill - very hard - with really nowhere to stop and rest. When Indiana Jones galloped through the canyon in the film - it didn't look that far! However - when we got back to the ship there was the wonderful sight of a line of white jacketed waiters

The whole trip was excellent - lots of heat and sitting on deck in the shade reading - lovely food and dancing after the show. Then the Suez Canal - I loved this, so interesting and amazing. We stopped in Limassol in Cyprus - had a nice lunch. Sorrento - stunning scenery but very commercial - bought Italian football shirts for the Grandchildren. Rome - drank fizzy wine and bought lovely leather handbag from the LuckyLucky men. Barcelona - Went on the open top tourist bus - freezing and very windy

sowent to a restaurant and had a long leisurely



lunch which was excellent. Cadiz - historic and v interesting, I kept thinking of Walter Raleigh singeing the King of Spain's beard (my history teacher would have been proud of me). Then Southampton. We had a good table at Dinner with two crazy Americans and an aged James Bond type, so laughed a lot and ate and drank too much - living the dream.

Operation Trenton 5

An update from **Andrew Marriott**

Just to remind you that Andrew as a member of the Army Reserve Engineer Regiment was undergoing training in preparation for a 12 months posting to South Sudan as part of the British element of the United Nations Mission. Here he describes his second week of this intensive regime.

Battle Casualty Drill continued with simulated casualties being given first aid. A night navigation exercise and an Annual Fitness Test was followed by Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear training and testing. An interesting two days on the ranges with rifle and pistol shooting included simulated firing from a vehicle, brought to an end training at Chilwell.

Moving to Maidstone, home of 36 Engineer Regiment, I joined 20 Field Squadron and moved to Lydd for the All Ranks Brief. Three days in the cinema 'with death by PowerPoint', the lectures covering many subjects which were South Sudan specific. These included environmental health, personal health and hygiene, medical care, gender in conflict, vehicle considerations, realities of life out there and the role of the UN. (Which Andrew explains in the next column)

The next two days had a more practical aspect dealing with vehicle

The UN wanted more British troops but they have to have relevant support not just medical but engineering to create medical centres and hospitals but also access infrastructure such as a means of casualty evacuation by air. Hence, the large majority of British troops deployed are Engineers, medical staff and infantry as force protection. It's very dangerous to give Engineers weapons, far safer (for everyone!) to let the infantry do the shooting. In Juba, the capital is a HQ element for all British troops deployed

drills, incident management, foreign weapons, minor aggravation, base location and dealing with different cultures.

More rifle and pistol training on ranges at RMA Sandhurst and at Lydd was delivered by a team of Gurkhas and a fantastic time we had. A weekend of survival training included how to avoid capture, but in the event of capture what to say and other information that is classified so cannot be repeated here.

So ended four weeks of intensive training and the chance to meet my Troop for the first time.

Andrew will tell us more later.

Continued from p5

Queen Mary 2

When built, *Queen Mary 2* was the longest and largest passenger ship ever built. Intended for routine crossings of the Atlantic but is now also used as a luxury cruise liner with its fifteen restaurants and bars, five swimming pools, a casino, a ballroom, a theatre, and the first [planetarium](#) at sea.

Photos from the Archives



John Cox at
Xmas dinner
2000

Putting up
Marquee at
AFD Event
2012



Roy Townsend
at AFD 2011
(See obituary
on page 7)



Old
Sailor
Bill
Cotton



Our Young Poppy
Walker 2007

Miscellany

June 1918 News Items

- 3rd Government calls for 50,000 Irish volunteers
- 6th US Marines attack Germans on Western Front
- 18th Government asks for another War Loan of £500 million
- 18th Allied offensive on Western Front starts
- 19th Introduction of General rationing announced
- 24th German advance stopped 45 miles from Paris
- 24th 45,000 Austrian prisoners taken by the Italians
- 30th British shot down 4,102 German planes in a year



A
MATT
cartoon

*'If they offer us coffee,
hold out for biscuits as well'*

Humour from the Daily Mail

I stopped at a friend's house the other day and found him stalking around with a fly-swatter. When I asked if he was getting any flies, he answered: 'Yeah, three males and two females.' Curious, I asked how he could tell the difference. He said: 'Three were on a beer can and two were on the phone.'

Continued from p2

To RBL Members and friends
Please accept my sincere thanks for the generous donations made in memory of George Cator in aid of our Branch Funds

Geoffrey Moth
Chairman
RAFA Market Harborough
Branch

Obituary

We regret to announce that Branch Member Roy Townsend died in hospital 13th May, age 86 following a period of declining health. He was also a member of RNA, having served as a regular in the Royal Navy and was involved in Korea. He was a staunch Poppy Appeal collector as was his wife Noreen to whom we extend our condolences. The Branch was represented at his funeral on 6th June.

Questionnaire

Each of the 129 branch members was sent a questionnaire designed to find their views of various aspects of how the Branch operates. Just 35 responses were received meaning that 73% of membership did not. Although not representative of the whole, answers received have been analysed and made available to the Committee

Branch members are always welcome at **Peaker Park** at their social events such as Garden Party 12.00 to 2.30 pm 14th July, BBQ Lunch 12.30 pm 12th August, Harvest Festival Lunch 17th October. Ring MH 414460 if you will attend

Committee Members

Jill Mann (MH 461572)
Colin & Pauline McIntyre (email
cMcIntyre1945@yahoo.co.uk)
Pat Middleton (MH 445827)
Kathie Morley (MH 419714)
Barbara Pickup (MH 433492)
Pat Walker (MH 545560)

LUNCH
AT THE
ANGEL



for good food and good company
3 JULY **MEET IN THE**
BAR AT NOON

MENU

Chicken strips in bacon & peppercorn sauce on mash; Roast Pork, stuffing etc; Salmon nuggets on crushed new potatoes; Hard boiled egg salad; Chicken & asparagus salad.
Fresh fruit salad; Chocolate torte & strawberries; Bread & butter pudding.
Tea or coffee & mints £9.25

To book, contact Kathie Morley on 01858 419714 or by email kathiemorley@talktalk.net
To cancel, ring **The Angel (01858 462702)** before 10 am on the day or you will be charged

What's Going On?

Forthcoming Events

- 23 Jun RNA Cheese & Wine @ Gt Bowden Village Hall
25 Jun AFD Flag Raising HDC
30 Jun Local AFD event
8 Aug Great Pilgrimage 90th Ann'vy
25 Aug Community & Volunteers Fair on The Square
10 Oct Branch AGM & Buffet
13 Oct Poppy App'l coffee morning
13 Oct Afternoon Tea
27 Oct Poppy Appeal Launch
11 Nov Remembrance Sunday Parade, Services & Lunch

Welfare

If you know any one who may benefit from Legion welfare 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. Locally, visit the **Pop In Centre** at the Library 10am-noon on the second Thursday each month

In Touch Next Month

From the Archives, Miscellany, Remember This?, News, etc.

The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors. The editor reserves the right to decide what is to be published. No part may be reproduced without prior permission.

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Branch Website

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

Committee - see Page7