

# 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

### 95

Years of Caring



## Market Harborough Branch

Founded in 1923

### Centenary Year of 1918



Label says  
'MADE IN  
ITALY' but  
it came from  
Sweden.  
Page 5  
explains.

### Next Monthly Branch Meeting

7.30 pm **Wednesday 8 August**  
Committee 2 August

Issue 238  
July 2018

Function Room, Conservative Club,  
Fairfield Rd. Market Harborough

## Branch News

### June Branch Meeting

The 25 members and a guest heard that there had been only 35 responses to the **Questionnaire** (25 attend, 10 do not); **Poppy Walk** had been successful and may be held annually; **GP90** - our branch wreath will be one of over 150 laid at the Menin Gate; Gartree Prison staff will be asked to refurbish **Garden of Remembrance crosses** and volunteers needed to set them out; **Data Protection** - In Touch on the Branch website seen as low risk; **Community and Volunteer Fair** - Volunteers need at our stall on 25 August; **Youth** - Betty Ramsay had an enthusiastic response from Meadowdale School (re. Affiliation?); **Thank you Initiative** - the Chairman suggested that the October 'Tea Party' should be a 'Thank You' for civilian as well as military support during WW1; nominations for the post of **County Vice Chairman** close on 31<sup>st</sup> July; **Flag Raising Ceremony** - Those attending should meet at 10.15 am and will be invited for refreshments; the **Branch Membership** is now 126; **Poppy Appeal** - an increase in national contributions. Branch stall at the Market will need more helpers; **Standard Bearer** attended National Conference and will be at Leicester

AFD parade. The Standard was also at the funeral of Roy Townsend; a **Social** event would be the RNA Cheese & Wine Party on 23 June; **In Touch** already being distributed.

### After Meeting Event

Julie from the Leicestershire Fire & Rescue Service gave a talk on Fire Safety in the Home based on a booklet with that title and which she handed out. Statistics of causes, location and fatalities, emphasised the importance of Smoke Alarms, precautions, escape plans, etc. Members applauded this thought provoking talk.

### Sponsored Poppy Walk

in Welland Park on 10 June had the support of the Council Chairman, Cllr Lesley Bowles and local MP, Neil



O'Brien There were 48 ticket holders who had to sign in & start

here. A Ceremony was held at the Angel Hotel on 7 July at which the winners of various categories received cups and other awards. The funds raised will be stated later.

Branch news continued on p7

Cover Image

Photo taken by Tom Ashmore of label on the inside shoulder of the raincoat

## ***R B L National Conference***

Extracts from the Report by Branch Delegate, Chairman John Standish

After the usual introductions, proceedings started with the **Chairman's Address** in which he said younger people and especially, 30 to 40 year olds should be encouraged to join, that we still collaborate with appropriate other Charities and Long standing Branch Chairmen should 'let go' so new ideas can be introduced.

### **Director General**

Charles Byrne said he saw our 5 values as Service, Collaboration, Excellence, Value the People and Passion. The Veterans Gateway system was bringing benefits to all. He also believes that the Government does listen to what the Legion says. Last year the Poppy Appeal raised some £109m (5% up on last year).

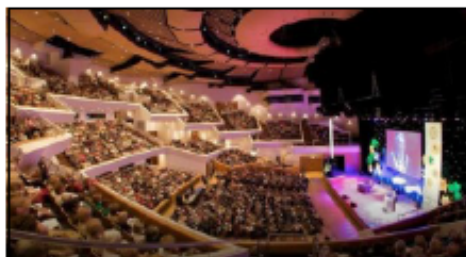
**Presentation of Accounts** gave detailed information about the Legion's financial performance and showed that income was up 5%, funds up 8% and expenditure up 6% but Donations were down 16%.

### **Guest Speakers**

Included Dave Flanagan from Canada which has 1400 branches and 275,000

members. He still sees UK & Canada as 'Comrades in Arms'.

### **Membership Forum**



**Conference Hall of the Waterfront Hotel in Belfast where TRBL Conference was held on 19/20 May (Photo is of a different occasion)**

A booklet which had been previously issued (we have a copy) gave details of the Membership Council and also Membership statistics (Age demographics seemed to be like our branch).

There are previously asked questions with answers. Some verbal questions were answered on the day including one about Primary School Affiliation of relevance to our Branch.

### **Membership & Volunteers**

**Director**, Emma Cummings, gave a complicated slide show & although difficult to follow, sounded good and very positive. A system of support for Branches with very few members is being introduced to allow them to remain in existence and keep their Standards. (This may have been due to a submitted Motion and could apply to Husband Bosworth).

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## *My 58 Years Old Raincoat*

By Tom Ashmore

It was 1960 and my wife, Joan found an advertisement for a holiday cottage to rent in Sweden. That looks interesting we thought and booked for a fortnight in August before the children had to go back to school after their summer break. This was going to be exciting as it involved a Swedish Lloyd ferry from Tilbury to Gothenburg on the west coast and about 105 miles south of Stromstad where the cottage was.

So, in our nearly new, second-hand Wolsey with wife and children aged 12 and 10, I set off from Ascot heading for London. When we reached Hyde Park the car started to lose power and became progressively and embarrassingly slower. We eventually found a garage and asked if they could do a quick fix so we could reach Tilbury in time to get the ferry. The mechanic made some adjustment involving the use of a small spanner which he lent me in case the problem re-occurred (Fortunately it did not and I returned the tool when we drove home!).

At the dockside, I was horrified to see my lovely car dangling below the crane

as it was hoisted aboard. (No Roll on-Roll off then). I can't remember anything about crossing the North Sea, what accommodation we had or what the formalities were when we landed. This would be the first time that I had driven abroad but unlike other European countries, in Sweden one drove on the left so I was not too concerned. We arrived safely at Stromstad from where we had been given directions to the cottage which we found in a quiet wooded area with a post box at the drive of each property. Our approach must have

been seen for on arrival we we were greeted by a lady who, speaking in English, explained that she was a relative of the owners. She showed us round and said to let her know if there were any problems. (The only problem would have been that she did not say just where she lived!).

The 'cottage' turned out to be a large bungalow, very well furnished and equipped and even the bed linen was monogrammed. (It transpired that the owner was a wealthy businessman). Outside in the large garden were chairs and table for outside dining, seen here with Joan and Janet.





We had not planned the holiday except that we wanted

to see some of the beautiful lakes mentioned in the guide book and in particular Lake Vanern (see map). One day, armed with a map we headed in the right direction but nowhere could we find a road that led to the shore and so we failed to find 'the largest lake in Sweden!' (See map). Another day driving through beautiful wooded country we did find a lake and parked off this lonely road to relax and enjoy the view. Then we heard approaching footsteps and then a young man appeared saying, 'do you come from Berkshire?'. He had recognised the county

letters on the number plate and explained that he lived in Windsor and came over each summer to do forestry work. What a coincidence to find in the middle of nowhere, someone who knew people where I worked at I C I in Slough!



We must have seen a notice about a boat trip to Alaska and Capri! These were two islands just off the coast, the first so named in memory of the many Swedes who were involved in the Alaskan Gold Rush but I doubt that

the other island was named in memory of the Gracie Fields's song!

Stromstad is only 12 miles from Norway so we decided



to visit the capital, Oslo (two countries for the price of one!). What complicated road system would we find entering the country where they drove on the right? Nothing could be more simple, at the check point was a car park which you drove into on the left and exited on the right. At one point I realised that I was driving on the wrong side of their road but quickly changed over. What we wanted to visit was Vigeland, the largest collection in the world of sculptures by a single artist. Set in a specially designed park with the centre piece being a 80 feet high granite column carved with 121 human figures climbing over each other fighting to get to the top, an outstanding social statement of humanity.

A less dramatic visit was to a filling station when on one of our country drives I needed a refill where instead of having to use the phrase book I was greeted, 'What can I get you sir?' Apart from petrol it turned out to be what is now



My 58 years old Raincoat.

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Branch Delegates then voted on the previously circulated Motions.

Four proposing changes to the Royal Charter were lost. Others lost concerned Branch Chairman tenure; Conference voting by other means and nomination to Board of Trustees. Those carried included allowing a BCS (Welfare) Chairman to seek £200 per case from Branch Welfare funds; Parliament should be lobbied to ensure that ex-service personnel were not disadvantaged by having been in prison; an award for branches without clubs for amounts collected for the Poppy Appeal; there should be a policy re suitability of those seeking election to County Officer positions; there should be reviews of rules about Branch and County Officer roles; the decision to withdraw Legion endorsement of the LMS Patriot Locomotive Project should be reconsidered; amalgamation of branches without the need to lay up their Standards; Women's section fee set at £14 to September 2019.

As at Previous National Conferences our Branch was also represented by Hilary Brazil who carried the Standard along with those from other branches taking part in the parade and other events.

Eventually the Legion website will carry a full report of the Conference and with pictures. Find it via [britishlegion.org.uk/membership/annualconference](http://britishlegion.org.uk/membership/annualconference)

## Miscellany

### July 1918 News Items

- 1<sup>st</sup> Dr Marie Stopes book 'Married Love' discusses 'sexual responsibilities of Marriage'
- 1<sup>st</sup> A new 'Pop-up' machine for toasting bread is launched
- 1<sup>st</sup> Explosion in Midlands armaments works kills 100 & injures 150
- 6<sup>th</sup> Spanish influenza epidemic hits France
- 16<sup>th</sup> Czar and family massacred by Russian Bolsheviks
- 19<sup>th</sup> In USA, baseball is declared a 'non-essential occupation'
- 30<sup>th</sup> A Frenchman makes the first ever parachute drop from an aeroplane



### A Bit of Fun

Two television aerials met on a roof, fell in love and got married, The ceremony wasn't much cop but the reception was excellent.

An invisible man married an invisible woman. The kids weren't much to look at either.

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### Obituaries

**Roy Williams** who used to live in the Old Coffee Mills died in a Care Home at the end of May at the age of 86. He had been a Branch member for 10 years and did originally attend meetings. He is survived by his wife Barbara to whom we offer sincere condolences.

**Raymond (Sandy) Powell** died on 19<sup>th</sup> June just 8 months before he would have become a centurion. He remained in good health well into his late 90s and used to drive to Branch meetings but more recently entered a Care Home. It is believed that he joined the newly formed Branch after his Army service. We extend sincere condolences to his family.

**John Clarke** died on 27<sup>th</sup> June age 83 at The Willows. He did National Service in the RAF, was a member of Ashley Branch until it closed and then joined ours. His funeral was on 10 July. Condolences are extended to his family

### Armed Forces Week 2018 Flag Raising on 25 June

Ex-service members & Standards, members of the public and school children heard Deputy Lord Lieutenant, Andrew Granger give an address, Very Revd. John Morley, and Revd Jane Lewis say prayers, thanks by Council Chairman who invited guests to join her for refreshments.

Branch members are always welcome at **Peaker Park** at their social events such as Garden Party 12.00 to 2.30 pm 14<sup>th</sup> July, BBQ Lunch 12.30 pm 12<sup>th</sup> August, Harvest Festival Lunch 17<sup>th</sup> 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

**7 AUGUST** **MEET IN THE BAR AT NOON**

### MENU

Roast Leg of Lamb; Baked cod loin on mash; Cumin Butternut Squash & Lentil Wellington; Ham & egg Salad; Chicken & Asparagus Salad.  
Fresh fruit salad & sorbet; Chocolate & coconut tart & ice cream; Mille-feuille with Strawberries & cream.  
Tea or coffee & mints £9.25

To book, contact Kathie Morley on 01858 419714 or by email [kathiemorley@talktalk.net](mailto: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

- 8 Aug Great Pilgrimage 90<sup>th</sup> Ann'vy  
25 Aug Community & Volunteers Fair on The Square  
16 Sep Battle of Britain Service  
10 Oct Branch AGM & Buffet  
13 Oct Poppy Appeal coffee morning at the theatre  
13 Oct Thank You Afternoon Tea  
27 Oct Poppy Appeal Launch  
11 Nov Remembrance Sunday Parade, Services & Lunch  
24 Nov Band Concert- Baptist Church

### 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.*

## Branch Contacts

### President

V. Rev. John Morley 01858 419714  
revjmorley @ talktalk.net

### Chairman

John Standish 0116 2404170  
Mobile 07710 799595  
[chairmhrbl@btinternet.com](mailto:chairmhrbl@btinternet.com)  
5 Manor Rd, Fleckney, LE8 8TN

### Vice Chairman

Stewart Harrison  
[srh30232@gmail.com](mailto:srh30232@gmail.com)

### Secretary,

Sara Whitley-Kinzett 01858 434476  
[sarawhitleykinzett@gmail.com](mailto:sarawhitleykinzett@gmail.com)  
4 Ashfield Road, M H LE16 7LX

### Treasurer & Membership Sec'y

Myra Grewcock 01858 419517  
[m.grewcock47@gmail.com](mailto:m.grewcock47@gmail.com)  
8 Holdenby Close, MH. LE16 8JE

### Poppy Appeal

Dave Prior 01858 540431  
Office - 6 Fairfield Road MH LE16  
9QQ 01858 433492  
[paoteam@btinternet.com](mailto:paoteam@btinternet.com)

### Standard Bearer

Hilary Brazil c/o 01858 434923

### Monthly Lunches

Kathie Morley 01858 419714  
[kathiemorley@talktalk.net](mailto:kathiemorley@talktalk.net)

### Welfare & Youth

Betty Ramsay 01858 434923  
[betty.ramsay@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:betty.ramsay@hotmail.co.uk)

### In Touch - Editor

Tom Ashmore 01858 433108  
[tashmore@ukvet.net](mailto:tashmore@ukvet.net)

9 The Pastures, MH . LE16 9EA

### Branch Website

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

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