

In Touch

The monthly newsletter founded in 1996

Issue 240
September 2018

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



For where
this is and
what is on
the label
see page 4

Next Monthly Branch Meeting & AGM
7.30 pm Wednesday 10 October
Committee 4 October

Function Room, Conservative Club,
Fairfield Rd. Market Harborough

Branch News

August Branch Meeting

In the absence of the Chairman, the meeting was led by Vice Chairman, Stewart Harrison. He reported that his sub-committee would be putting forward proposals based on results of the Questionnaire regarding the Branch Meeting and other activities. Pat Middleton outlined what her Commemoration of the End of WWI sub-committee had arranged under the theme of 'Thank You'. Collections from the Poppy Walk stood at £923 with more to come from Emergency Services. With regards to the Memorial Portico, it is understood the work on the hospital site will start in September. David Pryor would transport the Remembrance Garden Crosses to and from the prison for and after refurbishment. Volunteers are needed to set them out later. A gazebo/marquee for the Volunteer Fair was being lent by David Pryor. Meeting raffle prizes are to be donated in turn from a list of contributors. A ceremony organised by HDC to add a name missing from those on the Memorial Garden gate posts will be at 10 am on 1st September. Poppy Appeal helpers sought for manning the Market stall and as Street collectors. 25 people were at the August lunch. In Touch including AGM form being distributed.

After Meeting Social Event

A game designed and presented by Tom Ashmore called 'Decapitated' involved matching a page of heads to printed photos of groups of mainly Branch members whose heads had been blanked out. Five teams of four each with two members working in pairs, quickly started the search. One pair eventually said they had found all the matches which were proved to be correct and declared the winners, suitably rewarded with a prize. The team with highest combined scores of their pairs received another prize.



The return to this form of an event which was fun but involved members working together, was applauded and there were suggestions for something similar in the future.

Obituary

Mrs Adnett, widow of the late Gordon died on 7th August, age 98. Gordon had been Branch Chairman and a very active though controversial long standing member,

Branch news continued on p6

Cover Image

Branch wreath with the display outside the Menin Gate
One of very many photos taken during the GP 90 event

Remember this earlier massing of Legion Standards?

What appeared in Issue 2 dated August 1996 was;

Phew! What a scorcher it was on Saturday 20th July. But what a wonderful outing. Truly a day to remember. In the last issue I called it 'The Weston Park Spectacular' and so

it was, from the Pembrokeshire Toy soldiers (youngest soldier just 4 years old) which started the day to the finale with Beating the Retreat with bands from the RAF, RBL & Army Cadet Force and fireworks giving star-shell and

canon accompaniment to the climax of Beethoven's 1812 Overture. (*That error was corrected to Tchikofski in the next issue*).

For many, the highlight of the day was the Service of Dedication of the new RBL and Women's section Standards, when 450 Legion Standards massed in front of Weston Park House to form an impressive backdrop to the ceremony. This was followed by a March Past at which the salute was taken by Sir Peter de la Billiere (who had commanded the British forces in the Gulf War), accompanied by 3 holders of the Victoria Cross and 4 of the George Cross, all RBL members. From the spectators' point of view it would have

been better if the March Past had been in the main area (I might then have spotted our Standard Bearers, George Fleming and John Cox), but this would have meant all those in the parade standing in the hot sun even longer.

To celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the formation of the British Legion, an 'Open Day' was held at the home of the Earl of Bradford in Shropshire.



The coach trip, too, was a success. The 35 seater comfortable, the driver competent and helpful, and the hospitality and meal at the Bedworth

ex-servicemen's club most welcome and the raffle was well supported. Congratulations and thanks to Gordon Adnett, George Fleming and John Cox for arranging it all and to members and friends for deciding to make the trip. Those of you who did not come missed a great day out!

Available at the event as a souvenir was a book called '75 more Years'. It was a fascinating, well produced and illustrated publication of some 120 pages covering the past, present and future work of the Legion. It included articles on major conflicts resulting in the need for care and support from the Legion.

Great Pilgrimage 90

with a report by John Standish

As Chairman and Wreath Bearer with Standard Bearer Hilary Brazil we took part in the GP90 Pilgrimage parade on 8th August, organised by the Legion to commemorate the ending of WWI in 1918 and the 90th Anniversary of the Great Pilgrimage organised in 1928 for soldiers and families.

The two previous days were spent visiting battlefields around Ypres and The Somme and hearing of some of the stories of bravery and sacrifice by



the soldiers during battles over the 4 years of the war.

The event culminated in a sight never to be forgotten, or likely to be repeated of a parade of 2200 Standard Bearers and wreath bearers led by the band of The Royal Marines marched past the Cloth Hall to the Menin Gate



where a service was held and wreaths

laid before marching back.



Our wreath was one of these and its label which was written by a Market Harborough school girl read

Many people died fighting for one thing, a better future. The children of 2018 are living the future you dared to dream. Safe because of your bravery and sacrifice, thank you

It was a privilege to represent the Market Harborough District in this event and pay tribute to the all those who fought in WWI, particularly those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

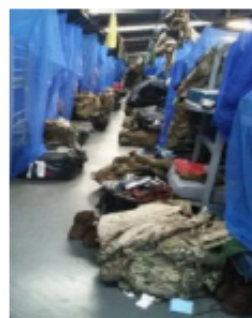
Hilary, seen here, said 'This was the most inspiring and emotional event I have ever taken part in as Branch Standard Bearer, particularly when the poppy petals fell under the Menin Gate during the two-minute silence. It was an honour to take part'



Our Member in South Sudan

Army Reserve (ex-Territorial) soldier Andrew Marriott continues his updates of Operation Trenton 5, the British element of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan. In previous issues of In Touch he dealt with the intensive training in the four weeks from when he volunteered to serve for 12 months there. Here he tells us something of his eventual arrival.

On Sunday 15th July at 23.45, we finally set off for Brize Norton, and as a good looking, fit JNCO I was selected for the task of 2I/C baggage. This entailed



unloading approximately 360 bags and 120 sets of body armour. Once checked in, we reloaded it, after breakfast we unloaded it for the baggage

handlers to load into containers for the flight! We took off at 12.45 hrs for Nairobi via Bahrain to drop some Royal Navy off and where at 37 degrees thought the heat was from the engines! Landing at Nairobi we unload those bags again!! The 2Lt who picked me, now fears for his life!! There was now a delay of 8 days waiting for clearance on our visas, giving me the never to be missed opportunity to go on a safari.

I got to Juba (the capital) some two weeks after leaving the UK. When we got to the camp, (which is a small camp, within the main camp) which for us is transit accommodation. We got the not so standard briefing, only drink bottled water, don't put your face in the water of the shower due to E. coli and don't use the right-hand ablution block showers, as an Indian soldier died from electrocution last week! Thankfully, we were only there the one night before flying on to Malakal, the final stop.

I've been here 3 weeks now so settled in, it's a 4-man room, air con, water dispenser, a cleaner each morning to sweep and mop and fruit juice at breakfast. So, overall, a steady life. Weekly routine is on site Monday to Friday, Saturday off, not that there's anywhere to go and Sunday's is briefings and any outstanding work, not site related.

The tasks I've mainly concentrated since



been here are building houses for UN staff and contractors,

which take about 2 days to put up. Over the past few days, I've been assisting with our water supply, water is pumped from the White Nile, into a tanker, which brings it to us for purification

Andy will send another update later

New Name

On Saturday 1st September a ceremony, organised by HDC, was to dedicate the recent addition of the name B W Coleman to the WW2 War Memorial on the gates to the Memorial Gardens.

The ATC band played, ACF and Sea Cadets stood by and Standards (including ours) were ready to hear our President, V. Rev John Morley officially welcome all present and especially the surviving members of Coleman's family. In a short history of the Royal Leicestershire Regiment it was stated that it had been involved in Norway and that is where Coleman had been killed. He was buried in a civil



cemetery in Lillhammer where his grave stone shows he died on 25th April, 1940 at the age of 20.

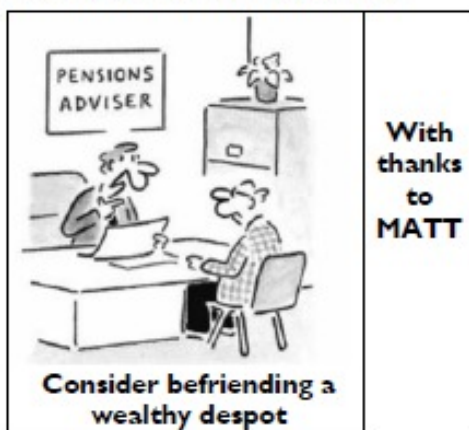
Later the name was unveiled by a niece and a nephew who then explained that his death had not been notified before the memorial was made because his grand parents with whom he lived had died.

Continued on P 7

Miscellany

September 1918 News Items

- 4th American women urged to work in munitions factories
- 5th Berlin declared to be in a state of siege
- 13th 14 million men register for conscription in USA
- 15th C H E Chubb presents Stonehenge to the nation
- 19th Women railway workers settle equal pay dispute
- 24th British troops make major advances in Palestine
- 30th Allies break through German lines
- 30th Spanish flu reaches Britain



Consider befriending a wealthy despot

A sandwich walks into a bar. The barman says: "Sorry, we don't serve food in here."

At a party, one woman says to another, "Aren't you wearing your wedding ring on the wrong finger?" The other replies, "Yes I am. I married the wrong man."

Continued from p6

The HDC Chairman thanked all those present, including Leicestershire Deputy Lord Lieutenant, involved in this act of dedication which was then formalised with the dipping of Standards, sounding of the Last Post, Reveille and a short prayer.

Several members of the Branch were amongst members of the public at the event.

Community and Volunteer Fair,

held on The Square on 25th August, had stands from a diverse range of local voluntary organisations including our RBL Branch. Ours displayed leaflets and other information about the Legion



and our Branch and was manned throughout the 11 am to 4 pm period of the fair by several branch members including the Chairman, who were able to talk to visitors. One of these was local MP Neil O'Brien who, with HDC, was responsible for the Fair.

Branch members are always welcome at **Peaker Park** at their social events such as Harvest Festival Lunch 17th October, 5th November Bonfire Night 6pm.
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)

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Barbara Pickup (MH 433492)

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**LUNCH
AT THE
ANGEL**



for good food and good company

2 OCTOBER

**MEET IN THE
BAR AT NOON**

MENU

Roast Chicken in sauce on mash;
Roast Lamb ; Loin of Cod on mash
with sauce; Carrot, sweetcorn, cu-
min etc summer stew.

Fresh fruit salad & sorbet; Lemon
Tart, berries & ice cream; Chocolate
& Coconut tart & raspberry sorbet.

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

- 13 Oct Poppy Appeal Coffee morning at the theatre - Helpers please!
- 13 Oct Thank You Afternoon Tea 2.30 to 4.30pm at Con. Club Ticket £5 from the Bar
- 27 Oct Poppy Appeal Launch from 10.30 on The Square
- 11 Nov Remembrance Sunday Parade, Services & Lunch at The Angel
- 24 Nov Band Concert- Baptist Church
- 12 Dec Branch Meeting & Quiz + mince pies?

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 10 am-noon on the second Thursday each month

In Touch Next Month

Centre pages story, Miscellany, Remember This?, News, etc.

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Branch Website

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Committee - see Page 7