

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



They were
both
somewhere
on page 5

Next Monthly Branch Meeting
7.30 pm Wednesday 13 February
Committee 7 February

Issue 244
January 2019

Function Room, Conservative Club,
Fairfield Rd. Market Harborough

Branch News

December Branch Meeting

The Chairman, Stewart Harrison, opened the meeting with the usual act of homage followed by his own remarks. A meeting held at Area Office in Derby had been attended by John Morley who said that it had been to consider possible changes to the TRBL membership system. The Chairman had represented the Branch at this year's Civic Carol Service. A new scroll had been added to the Branch Standard in recognition of it having taken part in the GP90 event and was on display. Earlier proposals that the now small Husbands Bosworth branch should become a sub-branch of M H have been abandoned following new TRBL rules. As was mentioned last month, the Branch delegate at County Conference on 5th January will be the Chairman. Those involved in what had been a very successful Band Concert were thanked for their part in raising £536 for the Poppy Appeal. The Chairman stated that most of the after meeting social events for the coming year had been decided or arranged. The Branch Community Service Representative (Welfare Officer, Betty Ramsay, stated that visits are being made and are entered on the HQ 365 computer system. The last Branch lunch saw those present

wearing paper hats as they enjoyed the Christmas menu. (See page 6 for a photo). As usual, the Standard Bearer, Hilary Brazil, had been very busy during Remembrancetide. The Editor reported that the December issue of In Touch had been produced and was being distributed.

After Meeting Social Event

Pauline and Colin McIntyre got members present wracking their brains to find the answers to a well organised Quiz. (See page 6). Their efforts were thanked by the Chairman and with applause from members.

Branch Website

Those of you who recently referred to the Branch website will have seen that it has not been updated since October. This is due to the Editor not being able to access the site for maintenance because it would not accept the previously used entry code. Enquiries on our behalf by Susan Grogan, the Advice and information Officer found that changes are being made at HQ which will require new codes about which we have not yet had details. Previously any problems could be referred directly to HQ Webmaster but not now.

Cover Image

Piper and Standards arriving at the Sunset Ceremony on 10 November. Photo by Tom Ashmore

Turning Back The Pages

To December 2004

In his editorial George Seward included these thoughts

A recent television series was called Grumpy Old Men and I bet there were very few of us who would disagree with most of their moans. Comparing how things are with how they were (in the 'good old days'!) is often a comforting pastime for Oldies. On the other hand, it is amazing how quickly modern aspects of life are absorbed by even the oldest amongst us.

Walking along Nelson Street the other day, I passed an elderly lady leaving her neighbour's house. "I'll pop in again later", she said, "or I'll text you." Not only had the lady mastered the mobile phone, but the art of sending text messages, too. Not so long ago I expect she would have banged on the wall!



A good time was had by all at the Branch Christmas Lunch



Juan and Tom Ashmore



Tony Johnson and Bernard Halsall



Janet and Les Sewell

Looking Back at 2018

January - County Conference

Members of the branch who attended were delegate, Stewart Harrison, Standard Bearer, Hilary Brazil & Betty Ramsay as County Youth Officer.

February - First Youth Member



Christopher Brazil joined the Branch. As the son of Hilary and grandson of Betty Ramsay he was well known at Branch functions and as a member of the Ramsay Walkers at the annual London

Poppy Walks.

March - Anniversary Dinner



Held at the Conservative Club who also provided a very good meal but spoiled by slow service. Entertainment was by the Dolce Sisters trio who sang and played music for dancing. There were 44 members and guests present.

May - National Conference

Chairman, John Standish and Standard Bearer, Hilary Brazil represented the Branch in Belfast. A full report appeared in the July issue of in Touch.

June - Poppy Walk

Sponsorship by several individuals and local groups was to raise funds for the Branch and Poppy Appeal. The event in Welland Park was supported by



H D C
Chairman,
Cllr Lesley
Bowles
and Local
MP, Neil
O'Brien
seen here
relaxing

after the launch.

June - Questionnaire

Designed to obtain members' ideas on how improvements could be made to how the Branch now operates and which might encourage recruitment but the very poor response, limited any proposals for change.

July - Garden Party

Branch Representatives at Peaker Park included resident Les Moore seen here here.



August - GP90

To Commemorate the pilgrimage held 90 years ago, TRBL organised an event in which about 2000 Standard Bearers and wreath carriers marched to the Menin Gate in Ypres following visits to the WWI battle fields and cemeteries. Our Standard Bearer and Chairman were somewhere in this parade.



August - Community & Volunteer Fair

The Branch had this stand with many others on The Square at the event organised by the Council and supported by MP Neil O'Brien.



September - Add a Name

To rectify an omission on the WW2 war memorial the Council had added the missing name 'B W Coleman' which was unveiled at a ceremony at which relatives & Branch members were present.



October - AGM

Changes voted on included Stewart Harrison as Chairman (following the resignation of John Standish), Jill Mann, Vice Chair & Betty Ramsay, Secretary. Committee Members are listed on p7.

October - Afternoon Tea Party

Organised as a 'Thank You' event commemorating the end of WWI the event included background music for guests as they chatted, a keyboard player accompanying wartime songs, WWI slide-show and memorabilia, a raffle and this very tasty buffet.



October - Poppy Appeal Launch

This was the last time it was organised by Dave Pryor who resigned after 10 years as PAO and followed the tradition he had established with the Northampton Pipe Band playing to 'pull in the crowds'

November Remembrance Events

These were fully covered in last month's issue except for the **Band Concert** held this year back in the usual venue, the Baptist Church. The concert was one of the 'Thank You' events and the programme had a WWI theme.



Bits and Pieces

December - Christmas Lunch

In previous years this was a joint tri-service get-together in January but this time it was Branch members and guests only who wore the paper hats and pulled the crackers. The turkey and



Christmas pud was good too!

December - Quiz & Mince Pies

The last social event of the year followed the established tradition, Quiz masters Pauline and Colin McIntyre had found some quite difficult questions but it was fun. It was followed by a mini-buffet with much more than mince pies.

December - Christmas Greetings from South Sudan

Andrew Marriott sent seasonal best wishes and says that the normal military Christmas traditions will be observed there, as was Remembrance



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Sunday Parade, the main difference being a daytime temperature of 40 to 50 degrees. His latest Update continues on p7.

100 years old January News

- 2nd 1.5 million Armenians reported massacred by the Turks
- 3rd Rutherford splits the atom so it not the smallest particle
- 3rd A new railway link from Paris to Athens is called Acropolis Express
- 14th Germany releases all Allied POWs but Allies only sick Germans
- 28th Over 200,000 on strike in UK

New Year Quotations

"Hope smiles from the threshold of the year to come, whispering, 'It will be happier.'" -**Alfred Lord Tennyson**

"And now we welcome the new year. Full of things that have never been." -**Rainer Maria Rilke**



From Christmas Crackers

Why did the orange take a prune to a party?

Because he could not find a date

What do you call Santa when he stops moving?

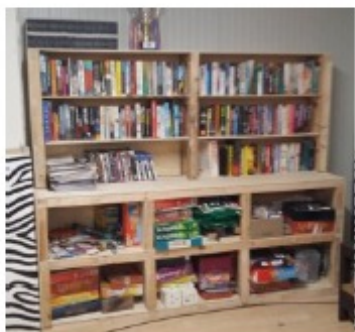
Santa Pause

More from South Sudan

The back injury mentioned in his last Update developed into Sciatica which had prevented Andrew from working in site. His woodworking skill was utilised and he was provided with a ISO workshop.



He produced a new 2 basin hand wash station for the Medical Centre, a bookcase to replace the HESCO one in the welfare area. This was 5ft high,



by 6ft wide (and far superior to a flat pack self assemble unit from Ikea!).

He says 'After which a whole list of jobs came my way!' These included a printer table for the 'Ops' room, a new desk, coffee table and frames for flags. He sent photos of all of these and also of some of the timber, mis-shaped or termite infested, in the ISO Containers, 'making working with it challenging at times'.

Branch members are always welcome at **Peaker Park** at their social events details of which will be given here when their programme for 2019 has been received.

Committee Members

Pat Middleton (MH 445827)
Kathie Morley (MH 419714)
Barbara Pickup (MH 433492)
Brian Thomas (MH 431119)
Sara Whitley-Kinzett(MH 434476)

LUNCH AT THE ANGEL



for good food and good company

**5 FEBRUARY MEET IN THE
BAR AT NOON**

MENU

Unfortunately the menu was not received before the file for this issue of In Touch had to be sent for printing. It should have been available on the clip boards at the January lunch and meeting but if you missed those and want to know what is on the menu, please contact Jill Mann as below.

To book, contact
Jill Mann 01858 461572
jillmann164@gmail.com
To cancel, ring **The Angel (01858
462702)** before 10 am on the day or
you will be charged

What's Going On?

Forthcoming Events

- 5 Feb Branch Lunch at the Angel
- 13 Feb Branch Meeting followed by a talk
- 5 Mar Branch lunch
- 13 Mar Anniversary Dinner
- 2 Apr Branch Lunch
- 10 Apr Branch Meeting & talk
- 11 Sep Branch Meeting & poetry reading

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

www.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/
market-harborough
Committee - see Page7