



The Royal British Legion



Market Harborough Branch

Reg Charity 219279

In Touch

Issue 152

May 2011

The monthly newsletter (founded 1996) of the Market Harborough Branch
(BR0106) of the Royal British Legion.

‘Shoulder to Shoulder With All Who Serve’

**Next Monthly Branch Meeting
Wednesday**

8 Jun

Function Room, Conservative Club, Fairfield Rd, Market Harborough
7-30pm

Branch News

Remembrance Garden - Mark Hudson reported that the prison had agreed to repair and maintain the crosses and also store them for future use. There is apparently a great deal of enthusiasm from the prison staff and inmates for this project and hopefully it will secure the future of the Remembrance Garden for many years to come.

Armed Forces Day will be held on Sunday 3 July from 10 am to about 2-30pm at Welland Park. The Committee have worked very hard to build on last years first event and this year promises to be bigger and better.

Hopefully this will help establish this event firmly in the RBL and District calendar of events.

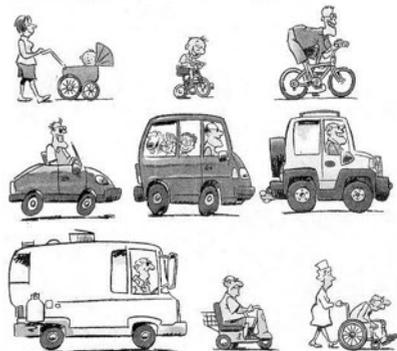
Dave Pryor reported this years Poppy collection to date was £28,8948- an excellent result.

Philosophers and Detectives were in abundance at the last meeting as the members rose to the challenge of Tom Ashmore's unique quiz. The detectives had to answer questions, the answers to which were in extracts of the branch history. The philosophers meanwhile found the missing words in a selection of proverbs.

An entertaining and different slant on quiz nights. The winners were '3 intellectuals and a man' who got 38 right out of 44. Their prize of a box of chocolates has been donated to the next coffee morning.

Well done Tom.

The Wheels of Life



ANGEL

the
HOTEL & RESTAURANT

37 High St, Market Harborough
LE16 7AF. Tel 01858 462702

* A family owned hotel with 28 en-suite rooms.

*Function room for private parties

*Family restaurant serving evening meals and traditional Sunday lunch

* afternoon teas (Apr to Sept)

* Lounge bar - a great place to enjoy a drink with friends

Waiting to Welcome You

Welfare

If you are aware of any one who qualifies for, and who may benefit from, the Royal British Legion welfare services please contact

Betty Ramsey
01858 434923

More Defence Cuts on the Way



National Arboretum Visit

Our friends in the RNA are organising a trip to the National arboretum on Tuesday 19 July. The coach will leave the Market Hall bus station on Northampton Rd at 9am. The coach should arrive in time for the daily Act of Homage in the Chapel and thereafter you can tour the Arboretum at your leisure. The coach will depart at 3pm arriving back in market Harborough about 4-15pm.

There is a cafe available serving hot and cold meals, snacks and drinks or you can take your own and eat at the tables provided. Admission is free and the coach will cost £7 per person.

To reserve your seat send a cheque payable to the Market Harborough Royal Naval Association to Pat Middleton, 7 Howard Way, Market Harborough, LE16 9LD.

First come first served.

RBL 90th Tea Party

Celebrate the 90th anniversary of the RBL, with the Air Cadets at a Mad Hatters Tea Party on the afternoon of June 12th at their Headquarters behind the Leisure Centre. Times are from 2pm to 4pm.

Please come along, free ticket (from John Standish) entitles you to have a tea or coffee but please bring some cakes/biscuits with you for all to share.

As the theme suggests wearing appropriate head wear will add to the festive atmosphere and general enjoyment..

Please support our young people who are recognising 90 years of RBL service.

Puzzle Corner

Can you find a five letter word that can be added to each of the following to make a set of new 6 letter words.

B J T D M

The First Men In Space

Yuri Gagarin became the first man to go into space in 1961. Born in 1934 he trained as a metalworker at the industrial technical school in Saratov. While he was in Saratov, he joined a flying club and his instructor recommended him to the air force, and Gagarin started at the Soviet Air Force cadet training school in 1955. He graduated with high distinction in 1957.

Gagarin applied for the six-week cosmonaut screening process in 1960. Over 2,000 Russian military pilots were considered. Only 20 were selected for intensive training. As training began, two men quickly emerged as front runners - Yuri Gagarin and Gherman Titov. The odds seemed to be in Titov's favour. But it was their social background that played the decisive role. Titov was the son of a teacher, but Gagarin, the son of a worker, was living proof that under communism, even the son of a peasant family could succeed.

On April 12 1961 Gagarin entered the capsule and at 9:07 am, Vostok 1 lifted off for its 108-minute flight. Wearing his protective suit, the pilot was strapped into an ejection seat equipped with the necessary communications gear and parachute. In an interview, Gagarin described the event: "At seven past nine Moscow time I felt the powerful rocket boosters. Everything was vibrating, and then, very slowly, I took off." Confident as ever, Gagarin shouted "Let's go!" as he began the journey.

"I felt the pressure of the g-forces on my body," Gagarin said later. "They pushed me right down into my seat. It was difficult to move my arms. I knew it wouldn't be long until the rocket left the earth's gravitational pull and I was in orbit." When it was obvious that Gagarin had made it into orbit, the Kremlin ordered the Russian news agency, Tass to make a prepared broadcast. The official announcement said simply: "The first cosmonaut in the



world is in space." The odds for Gagarin surviving the launch had been

calculated at just 50-50, but the odds on his returning were not so favourable. As his ship re-entered the earth's atmosphere, his capsule failed to separate properly from its carrier rocket and was spinning out of control. Disorientated, Gagarin failed to follow instructions from ground control and ejected too early. A tractor driver was working in the fields saw a figure parachuting from the sky. A few miles away, two schoolgirls rushed outside when Gagarin's capsule fell to Earth. "It was a huge ball, about two or three metres high. It fell, then it bounced and then it fell again. There was a huge hole where it hit first time," said one. The details of Gagarin's

parachute landing had to be concealed. The flight could qualify as a world record only if the pilot stayed inside the capsule all the way to touchdown.



Vostok 1 after landing

Gagarin became a national hero and his name known world wide. Gagarin was on the backup crew for Soyuz 1 and reportedly was a leading candidate for the planned Soviet piloted lunar landing. He was killed on a routine jet proficiency flight in March 1968. Gagarin's ashes were interred in the Kremlin wall.

First US astronaut Alan Shepard was born in 1923 and in 1941 he entered the United States Naval Academy. He graduated on June 7 1944 and subsequently entered flight training receiving his wings in 1947, he then graduated from Naval Test Pilot School in 1951. In 1959 the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) sent invites to 110 test pilots, asking them to volunteer. Shepard was disappointed because he did not receive an invitation. It turned out that his name had been among the 110, but his invitation had been misplaced. Shepard was among the seven chosen for Project Mercury. On May 5, 1961, only 23 days after

Gagarin became the first man in space, Shepard was launched at 9:34am aboard the spacecraft he named *Freedom 7*. He was



launched sub-orbitally to an altitude of over 116 miles, 303 statute miles down range from Cape Canaveral. His 15 minute 28 second flight achieved a

speed of 5,134 mph. During the flight, Cdr Shepard reported on cloud cover over Florida and North Carolina and commented, "Oh, what a beautiful view." As he re-entered the Earth's atmosphere, he was subjected to 11 times the force of gravity but reported that he was "OK".

Freedom 7 splashed down in the Atlantic Ocean where the aircraft carrier Lake Champlain awaited his arrival.



The capsule came through the entire flight in such excellent shape (cont p6)

A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing and the lawn mower is broken

Sandi V
www.wackywits.com



(Continued from p5) that the engineers who went over it with a fine-tooth comb decided that it could be used again. The doctors also assessed that the commander was in excellent shape, physically and psychologically and "...could be used again too."

Shepard's flight was still a history-making event. Whereas Gagarin had only been a passenger in his vehicle, Shepard was able to manoeuvre the spacecraft himself. While the Soviet mission was veiled in secrecy, Shepard's flight, return from space, splashdown at sea and recovery by helicopter to a waiting aircraft carrier were seen on live television by millions around the world.

In 1964 he was diagnosed with Meniere's syndrome which results in disorientation, dizziness and nausea. He was also diagnosed with glaucoma. He was grounded and the Navy forbade him from flying jet planes solo.

In early 1969, Shepard decided to have an operation on his ear. He went to a Los Angeles physician, checked into the hotel under a pseudonym to avoid publicity, and had a small tube planted in his inner ear. The operation was a success and Shepard was restored to full flight status on May 7 1969.

Shepard made his second space flight as spacecraft commander on Apollo 14, January 31 - February 9, 1971.

He retired from NASA and the Navy on August 1, 1974 and died on the night of July 21 1998, aged 74 after a long battle with leukaemia.

The MOD reported the following soldier killed in Afghanistan.

Captain Lisa Head, 11EOD Regiment RLC died in the UK on 19 April of wounds sustained the previous day in Afghanistan. Aged 29 from Huddersfield

RBL Polo and Sweat Shirts

The Branch has arranged a special deal through local company Actifwear for RBL polo shirts and sweat shirts.



Both items are in royal blue with the Legion Poppy motif on the left chest and the strap line 'Shoulder to shoulder with all who serve' on the right chest.

These items are ideal to wear on any informal occasion when you wish to show your support for the Royal British Legion.

Prices are £12-36 for polo shirts and £13-68 for the sweatshirts. For an extra £1-20 you can add the branch name, (see the following example, the cross will not be on the garment)

Sizes - Small (34") to XXL (50"). (XXXL available at extra cost)

Send cheque payable to Actifwear Ltd with items required and size to John

Standish 5 Manor Rd, Fleckney, LE8 8TN.

First order will be placed on May 23rd so they can be available for the carnival and Mad Hatters Tea party on June 12.



Tuesday 7 Jun

**Reservation before 31 May
to Betty Ramsey
01858 434923**

Cancellations on the day to **Betty**
before 9-30 am.

If Betty is not available phone the
Angel 01858 462702 before 10am
or the meal will be charged for.

Menu

*Quorn shepherds pie, gravy,
garden peas*

*Supreme of chicken, roast pota-
toes, red wine/mushroom gravy.*

*Battered Pollock, chips, tartare
sauce*

Accompanied by vegetables.

*Lemon & lime cheesecake, man-
darins, clotted cream ice cream*

Fresh fruit salad with ice cream

*St Clements sponge pudding &
cream*

coffee & mints

Only £8-25

Meet in the bar at noon

What's Going On?

- 28 May** Armed Forces Coffee Morning - proceeds go towards the support of Armed Forces event on July 3 in Welland Park
- 11 June** Carnival. Float and display. Please volunteer to help set up and escort carnival float and help on the show ground.
- 12 June** Mad Hatters Tea party - celebrate the RBL 90th Anniversary with a party. See page 3
- 29 June** Desborough Armed Forces Lunch £11-50
- 3 July** Armed Forces event - Welland Park
- 9 July** RBL Concert at St James the Greater, Tickets £5 to £13. More details next month

Puzzle Corner—Answer

The answer is 'angle'.

Making new words of bangle, dangle, jangle, mangle and tangle

Branch Contacts

Secretary

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Treasurer & Membership

Secretary

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Hilary Brazil
c/o 01858 434923

Monthly Lunches

Les Moore
01858 463112

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Next Committee Meeting 2 June

And Finally

All humans are 99.9% genetically identical and 98.4% of human genes are the same as the genes of a chimpanzee.

Time to stop monkeying around!

The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the editor or the Market Harborough Branch.

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The newsletter is online at www.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/market-harborough.