



The Royal British Legion

THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION



Market Harborough Branch

Reg Charity 219279

In Touch

Issue 160

January 2012

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 Feb**

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

What's Going On?

Forthcoming Events

- 8 Feb Branch meeting - meet our new President Andrew Granger DL who will be attending.
- 18 Feb Party with the Young at the Conservative Club. Tea dance, beetle drive, sing song etc 4pm - 6pm. Light refreshments available. Tickets £2-50 and bring a friend. Disco will start later, tickets £2-50. Attend both for £4.
- 25 Feb Coffee Morning. Help needed to bake cakes for the cake stall. A new idea of a 'garden stall' Bring any garden related items eg plants, pots, seeds etc. Usual raffle and tombola prizes need
- 9 Mar Annual Dinner at the Golf Club. Menu enclosed. Book early and send bookings to Pat Middleton

Branch Contacts

Secretary

Betty Ramsay
01858 434923

Treasurer & Membership Secretary

Myra Grewcock
8 Holdenby Close, MH
LE16 8JE
01858 419517

Poppy Appeal

Dave Pryor
01858 540431

Wreaths

Post Vacant

Standard Bearer

Hilary Brazil
c/o 01858 434923

Monthly Lunches

Les Moore
01858 463112

Editor - *In Touch*

John Standish
5 Manor Rd
Fleckney, LE8 8TN
Tel - 0116 2404170
in-toucheditor@hotmail.co.uk
Next Committee 2 Feb

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

News from the County Conference

The County President, Lt Col Rofey, commented on the good and the not so good of 2011. The not so good included the cancellation of the 90th Anniversary Concert, having sold less than 50 tickets. Cancellation costs were £2500.

The good included the support given by Leics CC by way of the 90th Anniversary Project, the Autumn Reception at County Hall and the Chair making the RBL as her chosen charity for the year.

Concern was felt about the RBL image not resonating with the public. Donations to Help for Heroes are thought by many to be a donation to the RBL in many people's eyes. The two organisations work together but both perceived wrongly by the public, the RBL being seen as the 'old boys club' supporting the WW2 veterans and not the modern soldier.

The Festival of Remembrance was seen as a success although the venue was not as good as the De Montfort Hall. Negotiations are in hand to return to the De Mont next year and the band of HM Royal Marines has been booked. Branches were urged to support the 2012 event.

Guest speaker Chris Simpkins referred to the launch of the new mission statement in Sep 2010 and the subsequent strategy and change review processes, it was hoped to meet the April 2012 target date. 2011 had seen two major campaigns launched by the RBL which

ex-service organisations. Both the Covenant and appointment of the Chief Coroner were seen as great successes and resulted in positive government action.

112 names had been added to the walls of the NMA and a successful youth conference held in Ypres. Many Poppy Parties had been held during 2011 and similar events are planned for this year. Membership services were under close review following the memberships fees vote at last years National Conference.

Poppy Scotland had been welcomed into the RBL family and the current Poppy Appeal stood at £34.2m, 10% up on last year and this years target was within reach. The business meeting resumed and it was agreed that County Fees would remain at £19 per 100 members for the year beginning 1 Oct 2012.

As a result of the Standard bearers contest Susie James (Birstall) and Michelle Reeves (Syston) are now County Standard Bearers, Michelle for the Women's Section. Our own George Fleming was appointed Deputy County Parade Marshall.

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 Ramsay
01858 434923

Messrs Hendry and Masters re-elected and Mr Bertram (Woodhouse Eves) and your Branch chairman elected to the Committee.

Jim Rowlinson retired after 11 years as County Chairman. He worked tirelessly over those years, supported by his wife. He rightly received a standing ovation and as a mark of appreciation he was presented with gift and his wife a bouquet of flowers.

The new Chairman is David Atterbury.

Branch Poppy Appeal

£24,000, slightly less than last year

The MOD reported the following soldiers killed in Afghanistan.

Rifleman **Sachin Limbu**, Royal Gurkha Rifles died on Monday 2 January from wounds sustained in June 2010. Aged 23 from Nepal

Private **John King**, The Yorkshire Regt was killed on Friday 30 December 2011. Aged 19 from Darlington

Sqn Ldr **Anthony Downing** Royal Air Force died on Friday 23 December 2011 from wounds sustained the previous day. Aged 34 from Kent

Captain **Tom Jennings** Royal Marines died Thursday 22 December 2011. Aged 29, his family have requested privacy



Tuesday 7 February
Reservations before 31 January to Les Moore 01858 463112

All cancellations phone the Angel 01858 462702 before 10am on the day of the meal. If you don't cancel as above you will be charged for the meal no matter what your reason

Menu

Main

Chicken casserole with roast potatoes

Roast loin of pork, roast potatoes, vegetables

Vegetable lasagne with mixed salad

Sweet

Jam sponge and custard

Strawberry cheesecake

Fresh fruit salad

trio of ice creams

Coffee and mints

£ 8.25 - *pay on the day*
Meet in the bar at noon