



The Royal British Legion



Market Harborough

In Touch

Issue 165

June 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**

11 July

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

National Conference

The Chairman attended the National Conference held in Scarborough in May.

The weather was blustery and cool not that we had much time to take in the sights as the Conference kept the delegates busy most of the weekend.

The Parade of the Standards started the proceedings with our Branch Standard being proudly on parade'. The National President opened the Conference for his last time, having served his three year term of office. The National Chairman highlighted some of the major achievements by the RBL in 2011, these included - the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant were enshrined in law in the new Armed Forces Act which received Royal assent in 2011. 50 Councils have signed up to the Armed Forces Community Covenant Schemes with another 47 in progress.. The Poppy Appeal has raised 338.5m so far.

The Director General in his address pointed out that expenditure on welfare in 2011 was £89.7m, an increase of some 26% over the previous year, staff costs in delivering that expenditure rose by only 2.3% to £30.3m.

The Legion is embarking on a new 'mission' Pathway to Growth in response to the public perception that the Legion is exclusively for veterans doing little more than Remembrance. The Pathway to Growth will see a re-structuring of the Legion

with 3 new Regional Offices and 16 Area Offices. The support will still be made available to County Chairmen and Committees and it is expected that this will be the first step towards promoting the core activities of the Legion, namely Health & Welfare, Remembrance, Representation and Comradeship.

Full details of the motions considered by Conference can be found on the Legion web site. The main changes include the changing of the Branch Financial Year to end on 30 June. No change is made to the Corporate Financial year end.. A proposal to stop annual conference was heavily defeated. A motion to clarify the terminology for members was passed, there is a Branch Affiliation Fee which is the same as the current Affiliation Fee, a Membership Fee set by Annual Conference and a Branch Subscription set by Branch Committees. These changes will not increase the amount paid by members.

In future Youth members will pay a one off fee of £5 and be issued with a single membership card to last until they are eligible for full membership. Proposals to rescind last years affiliation fee increase

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

and increase it to £16 wef 1 Oct 2012 was defeated as was a proposal that the cost of Gold Badges be borne by national funds and not branch funds.

After presentation of the awards and standards the conference closed with the Service and rousing renditions of Land of Hope and Glory and the National Anthem. to re-convene in Llandudno in May 2013.

Ramsay Ramblers

The Ramsay Ramblers are taking to the streets of London again on 8 July for the Poppy Walk.

They would welcome your company on this gentle walk round London answering questions in a quiz. If you can't walk with them then please sponsor them for Poppy Appeal.

The MOD reported the following soldiers killed in Afghanistan.

Corporal Alex Guy, aged 37 from St Neots of 1st Battalion Royal Anglian Regiment killed 15 June
Lance Corporal James

Ashworth, aged 23 from Kettering of 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards killed 13 June

Private Greg Stone, aged 20 from Yorkshire of 3rd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment killed 3 June.

Corporal Michael Thacker aged 27 from Swindon of 1st Battalion The Royal Welsh killed 1 June

Captain Stephen Healey aged 29 from Cardiff of 1st Battalion The Royal Welsh killed 26 May



Tuesday 3 July

Reservations before 26 June to Betty Ramsay 01858 434923

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
Failure to pay will bar attendance from future lunches

Menu

Roast leg of lamb, roast potato, vegetables, Yorks pudding, gravy

*Trio of Farm pork sausages ,
mashed potato, onion gravy*

*salmon, cod and Tartar fishcake
mixed salad, warm new potatoes*

Sweet

*Spotted Dick, creamy custard,
Fruit scone strawberries, clotted
cream, strawberry jam*

Fresh fruit salad and fruity sorbet

Trio of mixed ice creams

Coffee and mints

£8-50 - pay on the day
Meet in the bar at noon

What's Going On?

Forthcoming Events

- 23 June Armed Forces Committee Coffee Morning. Harborough Theatre
- 25 Jun Flag Raising Ceremony for Armed Forces Day at the Council House
- 1 Jul Armed Forces Day Welland Park, Flypast by Dakota
- 11 Jul Talk by George Gamble on a little known WW1 disaster.
- 28 July RNA Cheese and wine Party. Great Bowden Village Hall, 7 p.m. £5 to include 2 glasses of wine.

2013 - a special year, the Branch is 90 years old. An Anniversary Dinner will be held plus a float in the carnival. The Committee welcomes your ideas and help in making 2013 a very special 90th Birthday. Let us put the Legion firmly in the heart and minds of the people of Harborough.

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 5 July

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