

Editorial

It is with regret that I have to open this newsletter with the news that the branch has lost three members: Mrs. O. J. Sadler, Mr. Sam Shutt and Mr. Gordon Adnett. Mrs. Sadler was not so well known to members as she was unable to attend branch meetings; but Sam and Gordon were regular attenders and active colleagues. Obituaries appear on page 6.

The month started off very brightly with the Golden Jubilee parade in London, which most of enjoyed via our television sets, but two of our members actually took part in the parade. They were George Fleming, who was carrying our standard, and Sylvia Saunders, who was marching with representatives of combined Services Associations. (A story next moth?)

It has also been a good month from an editor's point of view, because this edition includes articles from our members: A report of the Annual Conference and the visit to the Poppy Factory. My thanks to both of you. Keep these contributions coming in—after all, it is your newsletter.

We have received another circular from Pall Mall requesting members to pay their annual subscriptions by Direct Debit. They point out that the advantages of so doing helps to prevent lapsed memberships, reduces the work of branch treasurer and reduces your branch costs. It adds that commitment to direct debit payments could lead to the issue of a 5-year membership card—with more savings. If you are willing to pay this way, see John Standish.



Trumpet Blowing

Some people may say that too much is being said about our success in winning the Haig Cup, but we have good cause to be proud of the achievement. Those who attended the branch meeting on 12th June— and it was a very good turnout— saw the impressive piece of silverware, perhaps being able to read the names of the branches which have won it in the 81 years since Field Marshall Earl Haig presented it as “The President's Award”, the name which is engraved upon it. Incidentally, “MARKET HARBOROUGH 2002” is right in the centre at the front!



Mark receives the cup from Legion President, Lt. General Sir Frederick Cordy-Simpson KBE, CB

World Cup comes to Harbor-

Photographic Offer

Two of our members, Tom and Betty Jeacock are going to Bangkok at the beginning of October. Whilst there, they are hoping to make a trip up to the Bridge on the River Kwai.

Tom has kindly offered to try to take some photographs at the War Cemetery in this area if anyone has a relative or friend interred there and would like such a picture.

If you are interested, please contact me (Bob England, tel. 464288) with names and other relevant information, and I will be pleased to pass them on to Tom and Betty.

ough!!

This was the heading on a leaflet placed on each table at the coffee morning. The text briefly explained that we had won the “Top Branch” award which is open to over 3000 RBL branches in the UK and overseas (i.e. worldwide!). There was also a picture of the cup.

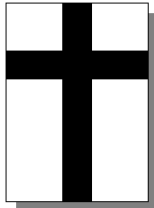
The same leaflet and notes about the coffee morning and the Standard Bearers' service and parade were given to the *Harborough Mail* but nothing was published this week. Last week the *Leicester Mercury* did print a picture taken at the branch meeting, but the text was wrong. We are not happy with our local press!!

Festival of Remembrance

Royal Albert Hall, Saturday, 9th November at 2 pm and 7 pm .

Tickets for the afternoon performance must be received by 14th July and will be dealt with in strict order of rotation as received. Prices range from £8 to £20 per seat.

For the evening performance, no branch will receive more than four tickets and no member more than one ticket. To apply for a ticket contact Betty Ramsay.



Obituaries

Mrs Joyce Sadler was already in poor health when she moved to the area about 3 years ago but was keen to retain her Legion membership. Sadly she suffered a stroke from which she lost the power of speech so we never got to know her or anything of her war-time service in the WRNS. We hope that receiving In Touch and the occasional visit helped her feel part of the Branch. She died a month after her 83rd birthday.

Mr. Sam Shutt died on 5th June aged 69. He served in the Merchant Navy from 1950 to 1962. Sam was well known and respected in the district and had many friends. As one of the longer serving members of the branch he will be remembered for his often spontaneous bursts of generosity and for his quips from the back of the room during meetings. He was a close friend and kindred spirit of

Mr Gordon Adnett who died on 13th June aged 81. His war-time service was with the Royal Marines and was for many years actively involved with the RM Association. As a Legion member he served this branch in many ways including being Committee member, Vice-chairman and Chairman. He was always on hand at Poppy Appeal time, at coffee mornings, as mini-bus driver on branch outings and at branch meetings. He will be sadly missed in the whole community which he served so well.

Our sympathy is extended to the families and friends of these departed members.

We will remember them.

County Standard Bearers' Parade and Service

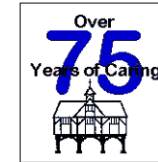
On Sunday 16th June the Branch played host to Standard Bearers and guests from all parts of Leicestershire and Rutland. The Parade of over 20 standards was led by the ATC Band but was very poorly supported by members. County Chairman, Mr Jim Rowlinson took the salute. The Service was conducted by Rev. Chris Moody. The playing of the Last Post & Reveille by four members of the Harborough Band Cornet section greatly impressed the visitors.

At a reception held in the Kingfisher Lounge, Branch Chairman, Mark Hudson, welcomed all the participants and thanked all those who had contributed to a very successful occasion.



Standard Bearers after the service march to The Square to lay wreaths on the War Memorial. The first four standards are Queen's Colour, County RBL, County RBL Women's Section, Market Harborough as host branch, carried by George Fleming.

Photo by Betty Ramsay



Branch News

COFFEE MORNING

Despite competition from other attractions on Saturday, 15th June over 120 people visited the Theatre, resulting in a very satisfactory profit of £241.44 for branch funds. Members generously contributed items for the stalls and raffle and responded to the call for helpers. It was a pleasure again to have young people working with us and we thank the four ATC cadets for their part in a very successful morning. The occasion was another example of how satisfying it is to work together as a team for some worthwhile object.

JUNE PUB LUNCH

A smaller than usual turnout on 18th June, but for the 11 members present at the Bull's Head, Clipston it was a very enjoyable occasion. The food was of the same high standard as at the Birthday Dinner in March but the service was less attentive, possibly due to staff interest in World Cup football showing in the bar!

BRANCH NOW REPRESENTED AT COUNTY

George Fleming, our standard bearer and ex-treasurer has been co-opted to fill a vacancy on the County Executive Committee. The appointment is an indication of the regard in which George is held personally and is an honour for the Branch.

COUNTY OFFICERS' MEETINGS

Our Chairman and Secretary attended the latest of these gatherings instituted by County Chairman, Jim Rowlinson to allow branch officers to discuss informally matters of common concern. For details contact Betty or Mark.



Annual Conference

As most members will be aware, our Chairman, Mark Hudson and Secretary, Betty Ramsay, attended the annual conference last month.

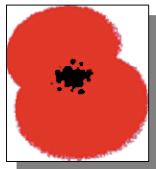
At the last branch meeting, Betty gave a fairly full verbal report of the outcome of the more important motions that were passed or rejected, and here she adds a more general impression of the conference.

Your Chairman, Mark, represented the branch at the Annual Conference in Bridlington on May 25/26, as one of almost 600 voting delegates; I attended as a visitor.

In the time-honoured tradition of all prestigious events, delegates and visitors queued on Saturday morning to get a good seat in the conference hall and the opening ceremony included the parade of 111 standards. Members were welcomed by the chairman of the local council who referred to the RBL as the best-loved charity in the country.

The National Chairman warned that over 30 motions were to be debated and voted on during the next two days and asked the delegates to maintain their courtesy and good humour towards each other! He expressed disappointment that there were only two items under Welfare and Fundraising but 14 under General (Internal).

Some light relief came from the interesting and sometimes amusing speeches from guests, including representatives of the Scottish RBL



Visit to Poppy Factory

By Vida Edwards

On Wednesday, 29th May, 48 members and friends boarded a coach to take us to the Poppy Factory, near Richmond. I had been looking forward to this day for some time, and, after a coffee stop, we arrived at our destination around 12.30. From the coach it was just a short walk to the factory. On entering we saw plenty of interesting things to look at in the foyer whilst waiting to go in to lunch, which was served to us in the canteen. It was very enjoyable.



Disabled workers making poppies
Photo by Keith Bowley

and the Women's Section, the Minister of Veteran Affairs, and the introduction of charity walkers and a roller-blader. Excellent Saturday evening entertainment was provided by the RBL Central Band, culminating in several choruses of Land of Hope and Glory and flag-waving.

Some of the results of the voting did not agree with branch members' instructions to Mark, but every motion had a fair hearing and additional facts were often given of which we had perhaps not been aware. Not surprisingly, the affiliation fee has been increased but hopefully other motions carried might lead to an improved Legion Magazine, more time given to

After lunch we were given a most interesting talk by our guide and then proceeded upon a tour of the factory. We were shown around the packing area before going into the main factory, and were informed that poppies are made the whole year round to keep pace with the demand; and that they were now manufacturing carnation wreathes as well.

The workers made us very welcome, and you were allowed to make a poppy if you wished. We then went on to see where the poppies were cut out, and then upstairs to see where the wreathes were assembled. I was amazed at the size of the wreathes made to be laid on the Cenotaph; they do not seem nearly so big when seen on TV.

At the end of the tour, we browsed among the gifts on sale and then it was time to board the coach at 4 o'clock.

We all had a most enjoyable day, apart from the long mystery tour back to Market Harborough.

branches to reply to questionnaires from HQ, and an extra day's holiday (Veterans' Day).

The highlight of the weekend was when Mark received* the Haig Cup on behalf of the branch and I could not resist saying to the people sitting around me: "That's my branch" and accordingly accepting their congratulations! Disappointingly, the closing parade was cancelled due to inclement weather. The Coastguard had been consulted but could not promise calm 'seas' for the standards! However, we all enjoyed the short service and some more patriotic singing, and look forward to Cardiff in 2003.

* see photo on page 8 BETTY RAMSAY



POPPY RACE DAY 30th JUNE

3 places still available. Non-members welcome - Cost inclusive of travel and entry to the Grandstand £18 Ring Tom Ashmore on MH 433108. Coach leaves Conservative Club at 9 am. Giant TV screens will show the World Cup Final before racing starts with the Parade of Standards during half-time. Stalls & Legion refreshment marquee open all day.

ROYAL JUBILEE CONCERT 13th JULY

This is the eighth open air concert organised by Quorn branch. The programme of popular music played by the Heart of England Orchestra culminates in a spectacular fireworks display to accompany Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture. Tickets from Geoffrey B Gibson MBE, 2 Wallis Close, Thurmaston, Leicester LE7 7JS. Tel. 0116 235 0946.

NEW SUBSCRIPTION RATE

As agreed at Annual Conference, the Affiliation fee is to be increased to £10. Subject to ratification, the branch fee will remain at £1 making the Subscription due on 1st October, £11.

CONFLICT OF DATES

It is unfortunate that the Harborough Band was not available on our preferred date of 9th November for our Remembrance Concert. The Band has promised to try to make the day before Remembrance Sunday an annual booking (but it will conflict with the Albert Hall event!)



Diary

Reminders for July (& late June) with some other dates to keep free (see also page 10)

- 30 Jun Poppy Race Day—Doncaster
- 4 Jul Branch Committee meeting
- 10 Jul Branch Meeting
- 13 Jul Royal Jubilee Concert—Beaumanor Hall
- 8 Aug Branch Committee meeting
- 14 Aug Branch Meeting & Buffet
- 5 Sep Branch Committee meeting
- 11 Sep Branch Meeting
- 17 Sep Pub lunch—venue to be announced
- 1 Oct Start of Legion Year 2002/3 and Subscriptions become due
- 18 Oct Annual Dinner—venue to be announced
- 2 Nov Branch Remembrance Concert
- 2 Nov County Festival of Remembrance at de Montfort Hall

Meetings

Branch meetings are held on the **Second Wednesday** of each month at 7.30 pm in the downstairs Function Room, , Fairfield Road, Market Harborough.

The social session after the next meeting will be unstructured—just chat amongst yourselves!

The Branch Committee meets each month on the **Thursday** preceding the Branch Meeting at 7.30 pm in the upstairs Lounge, of the Conservative Club Building.



The Royal British Legion

Reg. Charity 219279

Market Harborough Branch
BR0106



Founded in 1923

In Touch

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