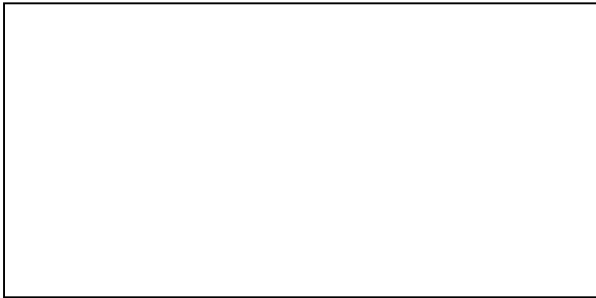




In Touch, Too



The Market Harborough Branch Bi-monthly News Sheet

Issue 6

June 1998.

Well Attended

It was gratifying to see so many members present at the meeting on 10th June when David Greenway gave an interesting and informative talk about his role as our Regional Organiser. Covering the counties of Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire & Rutland, Northamptonshire & Lincolnshire, he is a source of information, advice and support for County Offices, Branches and Legion Clubs on matters such as property, finance, membership and training. He has a responsibility to help to ensure that the legal requirements of the Royal Charter and the Charity Commission are met.

Responding to questions he stressed the importance of having more Associate Members to compensate for the inevitable decline in older ex-service people. He also promised to take up with HQ some criticisms raised.

David then gave an outline of changes to Legion organisation proposed by the County Support Working Party (CoSWoP) and discussed at the recent National Conference. Existing County Offices would be enhanced or amalgamated to become "Resource Centres" which would absorb most of the functions of the Regional Organisers and the Recruiting Advice & Liaison Officers, whose Offices then could be discontinued.

Anniversary Service of Thanksgiving

Holding the Service at the Bank Holiday weekend will have meant that some people will have been away, but does it explain why so few members of our Branch were present? This lack of support was all the more unfortunate and obvious because of the excellent response of invited guests. There were senior representatives of 20 Legion branches (including 3 from Northamptonshire), as well as our local friends from RNA, RAFA, ACF, ATC, Red Cross & St John's Ambulance. The Guest of Honour was District Council Chairman, Cllr Eileen Derrick.

Our Standard Bearer, George Fleming, supported by 15 visiting Standards, provided an element of ceremonial (and a touch of colour).

The Service was conducted by Branch Chaplain & Team Rector, Rev. Chris Moody and the Lessons were read by Bernard Page and Josie Bowley. Peter Wilson recited the Act of Homage and the Kohima Epitaph. In his Sermon, Chris spoke of the need of the Legion and each of us as members, to adapt to meet the changing circumstances of the future. His words would have been equally appropriate had he been addressing the National Conference which, as it happened, was being held that weekend.

By prior agreement of the Committee and the Church, and as stated in the Order of Service, the collection was in aid of the St Luke's Hospital Palliative Care Unit Appeal.

Four members had been "excused Church Parade", the ladies who were busily preparing refreshments at the Catholic Community Centre. Vice-Chairman, Connie Halsall had taken on the job of organising the reception after the service, and had persuaded Joan Ashmore, Terese Broughall, Joan McMillin & Mary Symon to "volunteer" for kitchen duty. For more muscular tasks, Dave Harrauld and Andrew Marriott were enlisted. They all did a grand job which richly deserved the applause they received from those present.

As is usual on such occasions, a raffle was held. Thanks are due to all who donated prizes and to John Cox for successfully extracting enough money to cover expenses and to add £55 to Branch funds.

Age is a question of
mind over matter.
If you don't mind,
it doesn't matter.

Dan Ingman

Cold, Wet and Windy

That was last Saturday at the Market Harborough Carnival. It is so disappointing for organisers and participants when all their hard work and enthusiasm is marred by bad weather. George Fleming had prepared an attractive, eye-catching stand and was helped with its transport and construction by Tony Johnson and Bob England. It had a protective cover but was designed for normal vertical rain, not the high speed, horizontal variety.

Renie & Dick Fulford did their best to keep the Tombola prizes dry but at the same time displayed in a way which would encourage people to buy tickets. The persuasive efforts of Bernard Halsall & the other "Sales Staff" resulted in net proceeds after expenses, including the fee for the Showground, of £91.91, a very creditable sum considering the conditions. Renie would like to thank Members for the number and quality of the prizes they generously donated.

George manned an information table and received a number of hopeful enquiries but the weather was not conducive to recruiting - few would wish to stand in heavy rain to hear why they should join even the Active, Caring, Friendly, Innovative, Outward-looking group which is the Market Harborough Branch of The Royal British Legion! They could read that at home in the new leaflet they were given.

As Branch Chairman, I wish to put on record my thanks to all those who once again rallied round when there was an important job to be done. I would like to think that Branch members as a whole appreciate your efforts and your dedication.

New Joining Fee

On a proposal from our Treasurer, the Committee has agreed that in future any new member will be charged a Joining Fee of £2.50 but will be given a Legion Badge.

In the Dry

The Coffee Morning on Saturday, 18th July will be held (indoors) in the Harborough Theatre from 9.30 until 12 noon. Joan McMillin has kindly agreed to be responsible for organising the event and asks for volunteers for the various jobs involved. There will be a Tombola for which a few more prizes would be welcome to supplement those left over from the Carnival. Joan would also like to receive for sale, cakes, including small ones. I am willing to act as a collecting point for your donations. Please publicise the event & try to come yourself - preferably with friends!

Canal Cruise

Tony Johnson tells me that the passenger list is now closed, the "Outside Cabin on E Deck" now having been taken. From the Travel Documents issued, passengers will know that they should assemble at the quay-side at Foxton Bottom Lock Harbour at 08.45hrs. on Thursday, 25th June.

Youth Football

The idea mentioned in the last Issue, of raising teams to represent the Branch at the Youth Festival, has had to be abandoned. Only teams from RBL Youth Sections are eligible. This was not made clear in the report in *Legion Magazine* and the Company the HQ uses to organise Sports events, failed to provide the information we requested. The result is wasted time and dulled enthusiasm for another initiative.

Poppy Appeal Raffle Tickets

You should have received a book of Raffle Tickets with the last issue of *Legion* magazine. Please do your best to sell them, but when you return the counterfoils and payment, please write on the form, "Please credit to PAO Ref HBC11". This will ensure that what you have raised will count towards the Market Harborough Poppy Appeal total.

Free Wellingtons!

To mark the 75th Anniversary in a personal fashion, Tom Jeacock had proposed that each Member should receive as a memento, a tumbler engraved with a suitable logo. The Committee approved the idea and 96 "Wellington" style glasses are about to be distributed. The cost will be met from internal raffles and donations which members may wish to make.

Our Internet Web Site

Quite soon after the Site was launched, Mark Hudson had an enquiry from someone in Canada seeking news of a war-time pal from Market Harborough. We were able to tell him that his friend was well known to one of our members (Gordon Adnett), but that sadly he had died a few years ago. Another enquiry was from a local historian.

Mark has added a new feature to the Site - Members' Stories. The first of these is Charles Freer's remarkable tale of his "Victoria Cross" published in last month's *In Touch*. As our Site becomes more widely known (it has already been "visited" over 180 times), Mark will receive from some of those who read his pages, comments which should add interest to the original stories. If you have an intriguing tale to tell or enquiry you would like published, ring Mark on 469527.

Reminders

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| 24th June | Branch Committee Meeting - 7.30pm |
| 8th July | Branch Meeting & Games Evening - 7.30pm |
| 18th July | Coffee Morning - 9.30am (See top centre this page) |
| 14-16 Aug | Edinburgh Tattoo Visit |
| 29th Aug | Coffee Morning |

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Your comments are welcome.