

# In Touch

The monthly newsletter founded in 1996



## The Royal British Legion

Registered Charity No. 219279

Shoulder to Shoulder with all who Serve

### Market Harborough Branch

Founded in 1923



years of caring in the  
local community



With thanks to Prime Life Ltd, parent company of Peaker Park Care Village Market Harborough, for printing this issue.

Issue 179

August 2013

**Next Monthly Branch Meeting**  
7.30 pm Wednesday 11 September  
Committee 4 September

Function Room, Conservative Club,  
Fairfield Rd. Market Harborough

## Branch News

### Congratulations, Tony.

Tony Johnson reports that for the last few weeks his book *Escape to Freedom* has been on sale worldwide by Amazon as an ebook (Kindle) and, to-date, has attracted 19 reviews (13 x 5-star and 3 x 4-star) in the UK; one 5-star in the USA and 1 x 5-star in Canada. He says, 'Having read them, I'm now on an ego trip'.

### London Poppy Walk



The Ramsay Walkers raised just over £209 for for the Poppy Appeal. They thank their sponsors The list is still open for any latecomers!

### Social Events

The branch lunch on 6<sup>th</sup> August was much better attended than in the past few months with 24 present including some RNA members.

The Branch was well represented at the Peaker Park 'Hoedown' on 6<sup>th</sup> July, when some members took to the floor with Residents, and again at the



Cheese and Cocktails party held on a lovely sunny evening on 26<sup>th</sup> July. We



are again invited to their next event, 'Picnic in the Garden' on 31 August.

The **AGM** will be held on 9<sup>th</sup> October, a month earlier than in past years. The form for nominating officers and committee members is with this issue.

A **Poster Competition** - is being run again this year with the theme 'The Royal British Legion and its Work'. All local schools have been informed. The closing date is 25 October. Details will

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### Cover Photo

The local Territorial Army unit, 'E' Company of the 1st 5th Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment, assemble on The Square on 6th August 1914 prior to marching to Oadby for an overnight stop and thence to Loughborough.

## ... VJ Day 50th Anniversary

A feature in the *Harborough Mail* on 28 August 1995 gave a full report, from which we quote, of local events commemorating the end of the War 50 years before. On the actual anniversary date, there was a short Act of Homage and Remembrance at the Memorial Gates.

'Saturday was a day of remembrance with the blessing of the Garden of Remembrance [set up in Welland Park] by the Rev Grenville Gibbins. Among those present . .

. . were Mr Murray-Philpson, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire, district council Chairman Eric Hubbard and Legion Chairman, Major Arthur Mace.'

'A grand fete in the park included stalls, sideshows, bouncy castle, a demonstration by Harborough Fire Service and a sports event organised by Monica Gibb, Council recreation development officer. There was also a large display of military vehicles from the 1939-45 period and an emblem on the bandstand by local artist Frank Scott, with a photographic display of Japanese war camps.'

'The following day, a service of tribute and promise was held in the parish

church, conducted by Mr Gibbins, who read out a letter from the Bishop of Yokohama. The then vicar of Little Bowden was killed in a Japanese prisoner of war camp.'

'A parade from the Commons car park preceded the service, and afterwards wreaths were laid at the



Memorial Gates by representatives of the Far East Prisoners of war Association, the Royal Air Force Association

and the Legion. At midday the church bells rang out with a full peal.'

The mail quoted Branch Secretary, John Sutton who said "We have had marvellous support and I would like to thank all those who have helped us during the year to make an outstanding event for the whole town". "We have made our mark and the town should appreciate what we have done."

'Although the wooden replica of the Cenotaph, made by Legion treasurer George Fleming, which formed the centre-piece in Welland Park will be removed . . . Mr Sutton hopes a permanent monument consisting of a granite base surmounted by a cross and bearing a plaque, will replace it.'

# Culture Shock: Occasional Observations from an Ex-Pat Sociologist

By Malcolm Ashmore

Colombia (spelt with a second 'o', unlike the New York university ('Columbia') or the Canadian province ('British Columbia')) is a large country in northern South America, about which we Brits tend to know very little. Cocaine, coffee, and the unique hairstyle of its most famous footballer are the usual trio of what people remember. Some of you may also have heard about the ongoing and unresolved internal war between the state and various left-wing (FARC, ELN)

guerrilla armies and right-wing paramilitary groups. Even internationally famous Colombians, like the writer Gabriel García Márquez or the singer Shakira, are not exactly household names for most of us.

Why am I telling you all this? Because I live there. Eighteen months ago I swapped a flat in Nottingham and a job in Loughborough and moved, with all

my goods and chattels, to my wife's home in her home town, Bogotá, Colombia's capital city. Now, Nottingham is a fair-sized place (at any rate, compared to Market Harborough) but that level of urban living did not prepare me for the sheer vastness

of my new city, with its 8 million and rising population sharing its 612 square miles. But statistical truths can be misleading. As in most heavily socially-stratified cities (Los Angeles, London, Lagos, you name it...) a person's actual urban experience tends to be limited to

those zones in which others of your class, income level and education live, work and play. My wife, for example, although she has lived in Bogotá almost all her life, has never visited many of the large areas of the city where the poor live. In fact, many of the poor are a lot more mobile than the (relatively) rich, as they have to travel to the rich parts to work. (Inequality between the rich and poor,



though I suspect statistically not terribly different than in Britain, is far more *visible* in Colombia: the very poor are visibly so, and visibly *there*; and the same goes for the very rich.)

But enough sociology; let's talk about the weather! You, in the throes of another 'normal' winter – a bit chilly, a bit damp, a bit dull; 2010-11 clearly being an aberration – will be thrilled to know that the weather in Bogotá is even worse than in Leicestershire. It is often cold, particularly when it rains – which it does very frequently for much of the year. “Odd”, I can picture you saying to yourself, “I thought Colombia was tropical.” Well, it is. But our usual understanding of what that term promises, namely heat and sunshine, is often gained in the context of standard foreign holidays (sun, sand, sea) which are enjoyed, necessarily, *at sea level*. Bogotá is situated at an altitude of 8,612 feet; which is a little less than two Ben Nevises stacked on top of each other. And however hot it is along the coasts (Colombia is blessed with two: the Caribbean to the north and the Pacific to the west) up in the ranges of the Andes, or the Cordilleras, as they are called in Colombia, it is just like England: either a mild winter or a disappointing summer. But it is worse, because central heating is unknown in my new country. Excuse me while I go and warm my hands...

[The Editor would love to have other stories from overseas.]

## More from South America

Other stories from the continent have appeared in ***In Touch***. In September 2005, following a meeting in Vienna of our member, Kathleen Davies and a English friend married to a Polish ex-RAF pilot and living in São Paulo, we published 'A Lifetime in Brazil', by Norah Ziemska. She wrote, 'I am a member of the São Paulo branch of the R.B.L. We still have a considerable number of War Veterans and younger members who take an interest in our activities.' Norah describes the interesting circumstances of what took her to, and kept her in Brazil.

'Poppies in Peru' (October 2004) was based on a letter to Travelsphere from a client, Dianne Chester who wrote, 'It was the day we had all been



waiting for - our visit to Machu Picchu - and it was Remembrance Sunday. I persuaded everyone to wear a poppy, which I had purchased in England. The train pulled out of Cusco on the dot of 0600 hrs, which was exactly 1100 hrs UK time!' There was silence.

[You can read the stories on the website in Newsletter/In Touch/Archives.]

## D Day Remembered

By ex Wren Margaret Cliff  
(née Duke) reporting as requested  
in the June issue of *In Touch*.

I served in the WRNS as a writer (Fleet Air Arm) for 3 years during WWII and apart from raining periods was based at The Royal Naval Air station in the Commodore's Office at Lee-on-Solent, Hampshire. I was quartered in a requisitioned house with a large garden and orchard at the rear.

In the weeks leading up to D Day the village, in common with most of the South Coast was packed tightly with armoured vehicles and personnel, all waiting for the signal to go. The soldiers lived in their vehicles with rations provided to each man. Needless to say rations were basic, so the call went out to every Wren to help. We had no food on the premises - only plenty of 'Ship's Cocoa' - thick and nourishing - so every night we brewed gallons of cocoa as night-caps for the hundreds who came to our quarters. The men brought ground sheets and spread them out where there was space in the garden and orchard. We were all aware of the situation but we held impromptu concerts to try to lift their spirits.

It was amazing how one night they all melted away. We awoke to find vehicles and men gone - how silently they went! All the Mulberry Harbours in the bay also disappeared as if by magic,

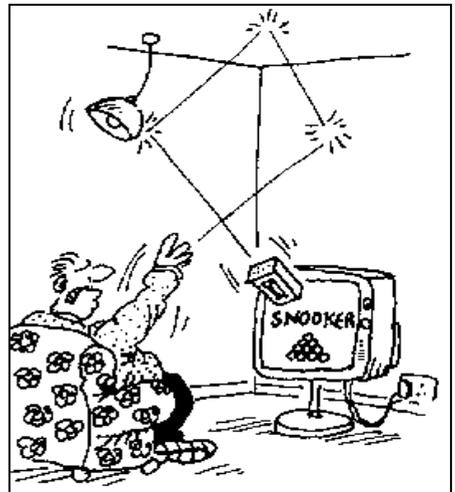
together with the thousands of ships that had been anchored there for weeks.

Most of our soldiers friends were from Canadian and British Infantry Divisions. One British soldier, married with twin sons of two years old, gave me a letter to post to his wife stipulating to post it two days after the invasion was made public as he did not want her to know he was in the first landing. Sadly he did not return along with so many of our friends from the British and Canadian Divisions. News filtered back to us at Lee and there were many, many of our friends and boy friends who were lost in the battle. The euphoria was quickly tempered with so much sadness at the loss of so many brave men.

I will never forget them,

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### Miscellany



When you have nothing to say, say  
nothing. *Charles Caleb Colton*

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## From HQ

### **“Dementia has been identified as the next health time bomb”**

This is the heading of an article by Laura Morton, RBL Head of Care Services, published in the January 2013 Issue of *Poppy Press*. Most of it is reproduced here.

The number of people with dementia in the UK is forecast to increase to over one million by 2021. Not surprisingly, the Legion's latest Welfare Survey identified the need for Dementia wings at our Poppy Care Homes. Halsey House in North Norfolk was one of the first to have a dedicated dementia wing.

We also want to provide better care for dementia patients in their own homes, so the Legion is partnering with Dementia UK to offer the Royal British Legion Admiral Nurse Service. Admiral Nurses specialise in caring for dementia patients and, equally importantly, their families. Their expertise helps sufferers to improve and develop communication and maintain relationships. They also support carers, enabling them to have a better quality of life.

## **LUNCH AT THE ANGEL**



for good food and good company

**3 SEPTEMBER** *MEET IN THE  
BAR AT NOON*

### Menu

#### **Supreme of Norfolk Chicken**

on sautéed potatoes with a mushroom and peppercorn sauce (gf)

#### **Smoked hake**

resting on mashed potatoes with rustic red pepper sauce (gf)

Both served with seasonal vegetables

**Vegetable pasta bake** with a cheese glaze and garlic dough balls (v)

**Home cooked ham**, 2 fried free range eggs and British Maris Piper chips (gf)



#### **Cappuccino layer cake**

with clotted cream and clotted cream Ice-cream (v)

**Raspberry & with chocolate ice-cream cake** with raspberry sorbet

#### **Fresh fruit Salad**

With strawberry ice-cream (v) (gf)



#### **Coffee and mints**

(V)= Vegetarian (gf)= Gluten free (can be GF)= and item can be changed to make the dish Gluten free

**£8.50** Pay at Reception

**To book, ring Les Moore (01858 463112) before 27 August.** To cancel a booking you must phone **The Angel (01858 462702)** before 10 am on the day or you will be charged.

## What's Going On?

### Forthcoming Events

- 20 Aug Visit to Poppy Factory-  
Fully booked
- 31 Aug Peaker Park - 'Picnic in the  
Garden' @ 4pm  
All members welcome
- 11 Sep After meeting talk by MH  
Railway Association
- 14 Sep RAFA Coffee Morning @  
Harboro' Theatre
- 15 Sep Battle of Britain Service  
Little Bowden Church  
@10.45 am
- 5 Oct Poppy Appeal Coffee  
Morning @ Theatre
- 9 Oct Branch AGM
- 26 Oct Poppy Appeal launch
- 2 Nov Festival of Remembrance  
de Montfort Hall
- 10 Nov Remembrance Sunday

### Welfare

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

**Betty Ramsay**  
**01858 434923**

### Coming Next Month

'Enlistment', 'Lancastria', its tragic  
sinking in June 1940, 'D-day Remem-  
bered, News and Miscellany

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The newsletter is online at [www.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/market-harborough](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/market-harborough)

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