

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

91

Years of Caring



**2014: WW1
Centenary Year**



Ken Jarrett
whose found
photograph
prompted the
story on page 4

Next Monthly Branch Meeting
7.30 pm **Thursday 13 February**
Committee 6 February

Issue 184
January 2014

Function Room, Conservative Club,
Fairfield Rd. Market Harborough

With Best Wishes for the New Year
as we enter the Centenary Year
of the start of the Great War.

Branch News

December Branch Meeting

In the unavoidable absence of Chair and Vice-Chairmen, the meeting was taken by the Secretary. It was reported that the Chairman and John Standish had attended a meeting of the County Executive at which the Director General had spoken about the ongoing changes in the Legion.

The 'After Meeting' buffet and an excellent quiz by Santa Claus clad Brian and Janet Lee made a relaxed and Seasonal final Branch event of the year.

Christmas Party at Peaker Park

A few Branch members joined residents and visitors at an enjoyable evening with an old-times sing-along and excellent buffet.



Con Halsall leads the singing

Late Christmas Lunch

A report and photos next month will show branch and RNA and RAFA members enjoying the occasion.

County Conference

The Branch was well represented at the event, this year held at the Elms Social and ex Service Club previously known as the Wigston Branch Club. County Executive Vice Chairman, John Standish and Youth Officer and Conference Committee member, Betty Ramsay and County Chaplain, John Morley were supported by Standard Bearer, Hillary Brazil, delegate, Tom Ashmore and George Fleming.

The excellent agenda document included minutes of the 2013 Conference, reports from County Training and Youth Officers and Community Fundraiser and showed that the usual format was to be followed. There were addresses by the new President, Col. Robert Martin, Chairman, David Atterbury, Women's Section Chairman, Mrs Madelain Gibbard and Treasurer Mrs. Maureen Watson presented the

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Cover Photo

Portrait photo of Ken Jarrett, new Merchant Navy Cadet, sent to his school friend, the author, in 1941 and discovered amongst memorabilia in 2013.

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Consequences *By Tom Ashmore*

I am fascinated by consequences - seeing how one thing leads to another. What could possibly link a 1942 photo of a Merchant Navy Cadet with poppies, heart transplants, a home for veterans in Ontario with an error in my Christmas Card list?

The email which told me that I had addressed a card to an old school friend who had died in March, was embarrassing but prompted me to look for photographs of Dorothy that I could send to her daughter. One that I found was in a box of school memorabilia that also contained a photo of another friend, Ken Jarrett in Merchant Navy Cadet uniform. In the same folder was a copy of the Huntingdonian school magazine dated Spring 1938 in which was an article entitled 'Papworth' by 'Ken Jarrett, Form VA'. I recalled that he had been well qualified to write about the origin and current operation of this Sanatorium because his father was a manager there.

He wrote, 'In 1915, a young doctor named Dr. Varrier-Jones, horrified at the large number of men returning from the Great War with

tuberculosis, started an experimental sanatorium near a little village of Bourne in Cambridgeshire. His idea was to give the men affected plenty of fresh air and sunshine, good food and healthy living conditions. Three years later, in 1918, a group of enterprising Cambridge people bought Papworth Hall...and put the doctor in charge to turn the place into an ideal sanatorium.



Dr. Varrier-Jones

That was the beginning of what is today (1938) one of the best sanatoria in England. . .). Ken says that when patients are first admitted to the 'Village' they receive medical treatment in one of the two hospitals and 'next it is fresh air', doing a few hour hours light work each day in one of the spacious, airy workshops. 'As the patient gets better, he is allowed to do more work and so receive more pay'. Eventually he is allowed to rent a room in the hostel or, if he is married, a cottage in the village and to live with his family.

Reading this made me recall what I had read about a similar sanatorium created to treat men with TB returning from WWI, so I looked again at what is written in 'Keeping Faith - The History of the Royal On Page 81 we read, 'TB was a killer. Of

55,00 sufferers discharged from the service, 18,000 had died by mid-1922.' 'Two treatment centres, known as Village settlements, had been set up, . . . one at Papworth . . . and one at Preston Hall near Maidstone.' More



An open air ward

facilities were needed at each and 'following Legion pressure, the government promised £20,000 in 1923. . . ' much less than was needed. In 1925 the Legion acquired Preston Hall and took over from the charity which had run it, naming it the British Legion Settlement. With Dr Verrier- Jones as Honorary Director, it developed along similar line to Papworth with hospital airy wards, workshops providing paid employment and onsite housing.

There were other sanatoria set up and in the mid-1930's my wife, Joan, was sent to one operating as a school for London children. She recalls classrooms, open fronted despite the winter weather and lessons not up to the standard required for those aspiring for the Scholarship (11+) exam. She says, 'They could not teach me anything so I helped the maids.'

With progressive improvements in housing and general living standards the use of immunisation and alternative medical treatment, TB in Britain is not the curse that it was but there are still about 9,000 cases annually.

Both Papworth and Preston Hall are now very different from when they were sanatoria. Papworth has become a world-class hospital specialising in treating lung and heart conditions and can boast having carried out the first UK heart transplant. Preston Hall is now the Aylesford NHS hospital within the 'Settlement' which



Poppy Warehouse at Aylesford

is now the Royal British Legion Village, where there are still treatment and nursing facilities, care accommodation and employment mainly for disabled ex-service people. It is the base for RBL Industries whose products include road, rail and public signs and for the Poppy Appeal.

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When looking for more information I accidentally found there is another Legion Village which is in Ontario, Canada, and functions as a care home complex run by the Coburn Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion.



Entrance sign at Coburn

Another search for 'R B L Village' led to our own In Touch web-site and an article in Issue 102, March 2007, about the RBL Village Branch. This mentions that they have on permanent display the Union Flag that had flown at the HQ of Field Marshall Earl Haig in 1918. It was later used as the first Union Flag at the Cenotaph on the first Remembrance Day.

So, my carelessness in addressing a card to a friend who had died, led from an article in a 1938 school magazine to one in In Touch, via pioneering heart surgery, a draughty 1930's school, ex-service care homes in Ontario and Kent, the Poppy Appeal and Earl Haig's 1918 Union Flag. On thing leads to another!!

Miscellany

Centenary Snippets - January 1914

Trehawke Davies is the first woman to loop-the-loop.

1915

Windsor Castle is cut off by floods also submerging Eton Playing Fields.

1916

Henry Ford returns from an abortive peace mission.

1917

Buffalo Bill (William Cody) dies

1918

Married women over 30 get the vote



The Twelve Months

Snowy, Flowy, Blowy,
Showery, Flowery, Bowery,
Hoppy, Croppy, Droppy,
Breezy, Sneezy, Freezy

By George Ellis

annual accounts. Confirmation of these and of election of post holders was by show of hands. The usual opening and closing ceremonies involving County Standard Bearers were observed. This year, under Agenda item 'Awards' the Ron West Shield for Efficiency was won by Market Harborough and presented by the President to your delegate.

The first of two guest speakers, was Army Reserve L/cpl Malcolm Martindale of 222 Medical Squadron whose interesting talk was about his service in this country and for a time as part of the Ambulance Response team in Afghanistan.

In her talk, Linda Flecknell, newly appointed RBL East Midlands Area Manager, gave some of the background to the changes taking place in the structure of the Legion and progress being made. In this she echoed some of what both the President and Chairman had said in their reports, but gave more details including the new Call Centre and the opening in Liverpool of the first of the prominent 'Pop in' centres to be created in major cities and towns and smaller centres elsewhere. Volunteers were needed at all of these but would be 'coordinated'. She spoke of the importance of communication and mentioned the revised RBL website and literature to be issued. Social Media should be used to 'get the message' to younger people.

LUNCH AT THE ANGEL



for good food and good company

4 FEBRUARY *MEET IN THE BAR AT NOON*

Roast rib of Waterloo Farm beef
with Yorkshire pudding, roast potatoes
& gravy (can be gf)

Smoked fillet of hake on dauphinoise
potatoes with green pea sauce

Supreme of Butterflied British
chicken on mashed potato with a
chasseur sauce

All Served with a Selection of
vegetables



Raspberry cream of the highlands
with raspberry ripple ice cream
"Crisp honey & oats base with honey,
whisky and cream mousse with a rasp-
berry topping"

Apple & sultana bread & butter pudding
with creamy custard

Fresh fruit Salad
with mini jug of cream

Coffee and mints

£8.50 Pay at reception

To book, ring Les Moore (01858
463112) before 27 Jan. 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

- 13 Feb Branch meeting & Social event
- 22 Feb Branch Coffee Morning
Harborough Theatre
- 12 Mar Branch meeting & Social event
- 22 Mar Anniversary Dinner at M H Golf Club
- 9 Apr Branch meeting & Social event

Welfare

If you are aware of any one who qualifies for, and may benefit from the Legion welfare services please contact Betty Ramsay on 01858 434923

RBL Helpline

is open to everyone, 8am - 8pm, 7 days a week on Freephone 0800 802 8080 for advice and support for serving & ex- service people and dependents.

In Touch Next Month

'Fl Lt C B Black DFC', Remember This?, Centenary Snippets, News, etc.

Branch Contacts

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Branch Website

www.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/market-harborough

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