

In Touch

The monthly newsletter founded in 1996

Issue 217
October 2016

The Royal British Legion

Registered Charity No. 210270



LIVE ON

To the memory of the fallen and the future of the living

93

Years of Caring



Market Harborough Branch

Founded in 1923

Centenary Year of 1916



See p4

From www.workhouses.org.uk

Next Branch Meeting - AGM
7.30 pm Wednesday 9 November
Committee 3 November

Function Room, Conservative Club,
Fairfield Rd. Market Harborough

Branch News

September Branch Meeting

The Chairman welcomed Mr Granger, his last meeting as President before stepping down at the AGM, and Mrs Judith Miller as a new Member; the Branch did not have a nomination for County Vice-Chairman; County Conference would be on 7th January in Ashby de la Zouch, which it was hoped members would attend; volunteers and donations required for the Coffee Morning on 15 October; John Standish would represent the Branch at a meeting of the group dealing with the re-siting of the Hospital Portico and would encourage consideration of various locations including the new hospital at St Luke's which could be renamed Market Harborough Memorial Hospital: events mentioned, both on 2nd October, were a Charity Concert at the Curve and the County Civic Service at Broughton Astley; Branch audited accounts had been sent to Area Office; new Poppy Appeal collectors were desperately required; 25 people attended the latest Lunch; Annual Anniversary Dinner with entertainment /dancing would be held on March 8th 2017 at the Conservative Club; the future of In Touch had been discussed in committee and members were asked for their comments or suggestions.

After Meeting Event

Awards are given to those who have worked for the Poppy Appeal for five years or longer. Four ten and one five year Certificates were presented by President, Andrew Granger accompanied by PAO David Pryor to three collectors who were not members of the Branch and two who were.



Emily Coltman



Glyn Iliffe



Pat & Ken Hook

Cover Photo

The entrance of the Market Harborough Workhouse, one of the photos in the M H section of the website www.workhouses.org.uk

Remember These? From *In Touch* October 2001

October Branch Meeting

When the business side of the very well attended meeting was concluded the Chairman, Mrs Connie Halsall, introduced the new County Field Officer, Ms Moira Watson, who was a visitor for the evening. Ms Watson gave a potted history of her military career and explained her work as CFO for Leicestershire, Rutland and Northants. dealing with both Welfare and Fundraising.

Ms Watson was followed by Squadron Leader John Standish who gave us a talk about the Air Training Corps. This really was an eye-opener for most of us as we rarely give a thought to the organisation behind these cadets. Also when John listed the

activities that these youngsters (boys and girls, 13-18 years of age) are offered, ranging through visits, sports, adventure training, entry for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, flying, playing in the band, to name but a few, it is a wonder why all the youth of Market Harborough are not members.

Sq Ldr Standish finished with a slide show of the most recent visit of a party of Harborough cadets to the War Grave Cemeteries in France and Belgium, and where the band section gave various concerts.

But still it was not the end of the evening, as it was all rounded off with an excellent buffet. Ω

Certificate for George

Treasurer George Fleming recently attended a Training Course for RBL "Independent Examiners" and is now qualified to "audit" the accounts of any branch of up to 100 members. Larger branches must employ an independent professional accountant.

But not for John

Treasurer-elect John Standish, wanted to go on the course for Branch Treasurers, but was told that only servicing treasurers could attend!!! Do

we assume from this that all newly-elected branch treasurers are expected (almost instructed) to muddle along until such time that a course is available for them? Talk about cart before the horse. One wonders who they employ at Pall Mall to think them up. Ω

Poppy Appeal 2001

At the Branch meeting, Mr Alec Taylor presented a cheque for £12.50. Being half the proceeds from a Jazz Concert, and asked that it be paid into the Poppy Appeal fund.

The Workhouse

based on information and with extracts from Wikipedia
and (with permission) www.workhouse.co.uk

The earliest known use of the term dates from 1631, in an account by the mayor of [Abingdon](#) reporting that "wee haue erected wthn our borough a workehouse to sett poore people to worke"^[1]

Life in a workhouse was intended to be harsh, to deter the able-bodied poor and to ensure that only the truly destitute would apply. But in areas such as the provision of free medical care and education for children, neither of which was available to the poor in England living outside workhouses until the early 20th century.

As the 19th century wore on, workhouses increasingly became refuges for the elderly, infirm and sick rather than the able-bodied poor, and in 1929 legislation was passed to allow local authorities to take over workhouse infirmaries as municipal hospitals. Although workhouses were formally abolished by the same legislation in 1930, many continued under their new appellation of Public Assistance Institutions under the control of local authorities. It was not until the National Assistance Act of 1948 that the last vestiges of the Poor Law disappeared, and with them the workhouses.

In an early workhouse directory it was reported that at Market Harborough in 1724 the workhouse had 17 inmates, six being old and nine young most unable to work but three boys were employed working for weavers bringing in four shillings a week. A man was paid two shillings and sixpence a week to "keep them in good Order, to cut their Victuals, and to teach the Children to read."

It had been created less than two years previously to reduce the cost to the parish of maintaining the Poor who, if able to work were taken in, but "those that are decrepit or decay's by age, or any ways unable" are maintained by the parish. The building was in the "Form of a Court four-square with several apartments for lodging, and other Conveniences. There is a Hall. or long Room, with Tables and Benches, where they have their Meals, and where afterwards they may spin". "They have laid in a Provision of several Cheeses and of Coals for which they have convenient Places".

A parliamentary report of 1777 recorded that other parish workhouses in this area included Bowden Magna (Great Bowden), Clipston, Foxton, and Lubbenham. Like others, that at Harborough

was run by a contractor. In 1793 he was Joseph Tilley who was paid four guineas a week to be "the master of the Workhouse and to cover all its expenses. His duties included teaching the children to read."

A new workhouse was erected to the north of Market Harborough in 1836/7 to accommodate up to 300 inmates at a cost of £3600. Its location and layout is shown on the 1899 OS Map. This is part of what is now the



St. Luke's Hospital site. The design of the building was based on the standard square model of the time with a three storey entrance block with the porter's lodge, board-room and administration offices. To the rear four accommodation wings for the different classes of inmate (male/female, old/able bodied), radiating from a central supervisory hub. The areas between the wings were segregated exercise yards. Some expansion took place at the north of the site in the early twentieth century including a new infirmary.

This photo of the entrance front of the building facing the Leicester Road was taken in about 1900.



Later the workhouse was demolished and the site cleared (except for this building which remained until recently) and the building of a hospital, St. Luke's. Since this



photo was taken in 2000 an extension was built behind and to the left to form the present entrance and new wards. In January 2017 building work of a new hospital should be complete (and where the Workhouse stood!).



Almshouses

Almshouses are charitable housing provided to enable people (typically elderly people who can no longer work to earn enough to pay rent) to live in a particular community. They are often targeted at the poor of a locality, at those from certain forms of previous employment, or their widows, and are generally maintained by a charity or the trustees of a bequest. In this respect they are quite different from Workhouses paid for by Parishes from government funds. The standard of accommodation is far higher and inmates are not subject to the harsh regime of the Workhouse.

Almshouses are not just a British institution and they have existed in the USA and Europe like this one in the



Netherlands and usually as Christian foundations.

They also have a

long history, the oldest still in existence in Britain being in Winchester dating from about

1132, but these in Woburn, Bedfordshire are



much later (Info & pictures ex Wikipedia)

Miscellany

October 1916 News Items

- Oct 7th Allies break the Somme front for 12 miles
- Oct 11th French take charge of Greek Navy
- Oct 12th Price of bread at record level at 10 pence a loaf
- Oct 16th Allies occupy Athens
- Oct 16th First birth control clinic in USA opens in New York
- Oct 20th US Army orders 350 new aeroplanes
- Oct 24th Second Battle of Verdun opens
- Oct 31st British casualties for last 3 months 350,000, 40% of total war casualties

A Cooperism

I went to the doctors the other day and I said, 'Have you got anything for wind?' So he gave me a kite.

October cartoon



Continued from p 2

Chris Groom

Following the announcement that he was standing down as the Harborough Band Director, Secretary, Betty Ramsay, wrote thanking him for the many Remembrance concerts he had directed. In reply Chris said "Thank you so much for your wonderful letter.

After 25 years of Legion concerts I can honestly say that I enjoyed every single one and would have loved to be with you all at the De Montfort Hall. I am sure the band will do you proud and I will be with you in spirit.

Thank you all so much for all you continue to do for our ex servicemen"

District Council Civic Service
This year's event held on 2nd October at Broughton Astley at which TRBL was well represented by County members including Betty Ramsay. Children from the Primary School sang; senior students collected and Uniformed Groups provided a Guard of Honour for the Civic Procession.

Légion d'Honneur Award
At a ceremony preceding the Committee Meeting on 6th October, branch member Douglass Owen was presented with the medal of the Légion d'Honneur by the French Consul in recognition of his service in France during WW2. A document had been prepared with Douglass's service details on the reverse of the cover shown in the next column.



LUNCH
AT THE
ANGEL



for good food and good company

1 NOVEMBER **MEET IN THE BAR AT NOON**

MENU

Chicken, mushroom & leek casserole, Smoked haddock on mash potato, Shoulder of lamb.
Warm apple pie, Lemon meringue roulade, Black forest gateau.

Tea or coffee & mints. £9.25

To book, contact Kathie Morley, email kathiemorley@talktalk.net, or phone 01858 419714
To cancel, ring **The Angel (01858 462702)** before 10 am on the day or you will be charged

What's Going On?

Forthcoming Events

- 15 Oct Coffee Morning at Theatre for Poppy Appeal
- 29 Oct Festival of Remembrance @ De Montfort Hall
- 29 Oct Poppy Appeal Launch on The Square
- 9 Nov Branch Meeting + talk
- 11 Nov Armistice Day events @ Welland Park & The Square
- 12 Nov Festival of Remembrance at Albert Hall. If you wish to go please contact Betty Ramsay.
- 13 Nov Remembrance Sunday Parade and Services
- 19 Nov Band Concert @ Baptist Church

Welfare

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

RBL Helpline

is open to everyone, 8am - 8pm, 7 days a week on 0808 802 8080 for advice and support for serving & ex- service people and depend-

In Touch Next Month

'A Canadian Connection', Miscellany, Remember This?, News, etc.

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Branch Website

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