

In Touch

The monthly newsletter founded in 1996

The Royal British Legion



Registered Charity No. 219279

LIVE ON

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



**Market
Harborough
Branch**

Founded in 1923

Centenary Year of 1916

Merry Christmas



More on
this theme
on pp 4&5

Next Branch Meeting
7.30 pm Wednesday 11 January
Committee 5 January

Function Room, Conservative Club,
Fairfield Rd. Market Harborough

Issue 219
December 2016

Branch News

November Branch Meeting

In opening the meeting the new Chairman, John Standish, paid tribute to recently deceased George Seward. The newly appointed President, Rev. John Morley was presented with his Jewel of Office and Hilary Brazil was to continue as Standard Bearer. Arrangements for Armistice Day included a Sunset Ceremony and for Remembrance Sunday a post-wreath-laying RNA lunch at which Branch members would be welcome. The Branch had been invited to the HDC Civic Carol Service at Lutterworth on 7 December. Training Officer, Hilary

Brazil, hoped members would attend courses she was providing as a step 'to take the Branch forward'. Official Membership information showed that there were still several unpaid subscriptions. Scouts had helped with Poppy Appeal collections as had a new 87 years old but keen volunteer. Ideas for next year's Armed Forces Day would be welcome. The Leicester City Remembrance football match which the Standard Bearer and other members attended had been rather disappointing. In Touch distributors present had received their batches and posted copies had been sent.

After Meeting Talk

Jon Vagg and Christine with her Recovery Dog, Daisy, gave an interesting talk about the work of the Leicester based Recovery Dogs charity concerned with the training of dogs to help individuals to regain independence and wellbeing, illustrated with examples of how Christine has been helped to cope with emotional problems such as anxiety, panic attacks, etc. resulting from blood pressure conditions. A dog can be trained to an amazing range of skills to meet the owner's needs and may take 18 months.

Members showed their appreciation of the talk with a sincere round of applause.

Remembrance

The usual laying a wreath at the Memorial in Welland Park was followed with the Armistice Day



ceremony in front of the gates of the Memorial Gardens for the Silence and wreath-laying when school children placed their wreath crosses. The event was attended by our local MP,

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Cover Picture

The Royal Canadian Legion Badge copied from Wikipedia.

Alphabet

A is for apple, and B is for boat,
That used to be right, but now it
won't float!
Age before beauty is what we once
said,
But let's be a bit more realistic
instead.
So, here's

The New Alphabet

A's for arthritis;
B's the bad back,
C's the chest pains, perhaps car-d-
iac?

D is for dental
decay and decline,
E is for eyesight,
can't read that top
line!

F is for fissures and
fluid retention,
G is for gas which

I'd rather not mention.
H .. high blood pressure--I'd rather it
low;
I .. for incisions with scars you can
show.

J is for joints, out of socket, won't
mend,
K is for knees that crack when they
bend.
L 's for libido, what happened to sex?
M is for memory. I forget what
comes next.

N is neuralgia, in nerves way down
low;
O is for osteo, bones that don't
grow!
P for prescriptions, I have quite a
few,
just give me a pill and I'll be good as
new!

Q is for queasy, is it fatal or flu?
R is for reflux, one meal turns to
two.
S is for sleepless nights, counting my
fears,
T is for Tinnitus; bells in my ears!

U is for urinary; troubles with
flow;
V for vertigo, that's 'dizzy,' you
know.
W for worry, NOW what's
going 'round'?
X is for X ray, and what might
be found.

Y for another year I've just left
behind,
Z is for zest I still have - in my mind.

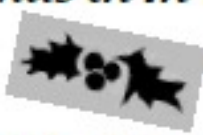
I've survived all the symptoms, my
body's deployed,
and I'm keeping six doctors fully
employed!
But I'll still enjoy turkey, pudding and
wine
'Cos this Christmas I'm having a jolly
good time.

Cheers!





Christmas in In Touch



Most December issues of In Touch have been deliberately lighthearted appropriate for Christmas month but with informative articles and news items.

In 2004 George Seward wrote "My Christmas Grand Prix" recalling delivering on Christmas Day the only available daily newspaper, *The Scotsman*, picked up at King's Cross



station at 6.30 am. 'At around seven o'clock on a 1960s Christmas morning, I drove up Whitehall and around Trafalgar Square in my trusty Hillman Husky at forty-odd miles an hour, with not another vehicle in sight

In complete contrast and from fact to fiction and a different delivery duty. Is Bob England's 2001 'An Interview' which starts "When I was just a cub reporter, I was dispatched to the far north of Norway to conduct an interview at the now famous Christmas Village. As I set foot in the village the first thing I saw was a great

lumbering reindeer dashing towards me across the snow. He grabbed the microphone from my hand, and transcribed here is exactly what went into my tape recorder." Bob's imagination leads to "Yes like I said, I'm the real brains behind this outfit. After all, without the one-deer power sleigh the old man wouldn't get very far, would he?" And finally to "Well I really must be going....It was nice meeting you Merry Christmas".

*A Poem for Christmas
By Jan Boddy*

*Christmas would never be Christmas-
Without a remembrance of you
And so with kind thoughts and good
wishes
I'm sending this message anew
May you be happy and may you be
blest*

From December 2007

The Judge addressed the prisoner in the dock sternly: "Seamus O'Reilly, you are charged with the crime of theft. How do you plead? Are you guilty or not guilty?"

O'Reilly: "I don't know Sir M'Lord, I haven't heard the evidence yet"

Went to the corner shop - bought 4 corners. (Another Cooperism)

Christmas Day 2001 Mombassa

Rachel Pacey (Operator Mechanic /
HMS Southampton)

Following the September 11th occurrence our tour was extended for another three months to be carrier escort for HMS Illustrious, which would mean spending Christmas away. Fortunately, I wasn't one of the unlucky ones stitched to be on duty on Christmas day. Like many others on the ship, it was my first Christmas away from home, so we decided to venture to the beaches for a bit of 'Christmas sun'. Not many people can say that their Christmas Day consisted of jet skiing and camel rides on the white sandy beaches, followed by a barbecue and many cocktails. When we returned to the ship in the early hours of Boxing Day, we were quite surprised to see a camel tied up outside the dock gatesIt had been bought by one of the lads as a Christmas present for his mum, and thought the captain would let him keep it in the hangar until we returned to Portsmouth. He still hasn't lived it down!

(From December 2003)



Two lemmings were about to jump off the cliff. Said one, "The last time I did this I very nearly killed myself!"



Christmas Spirit

A young child attending her first carol service demanded in a loud voice when the collection plate came round "you mean we have to pay for this as well"

Big Blind Erik was a Viking warrior who with his band of Norsemen, made regular raids on the English coastal areas taking home lots of gold and treasures.. One day, Erik's wife said she was bored with all the gold and asked Erik if he could get her a new kitchen sink. On his next trip Big Blind Erik found a builders' merchant but he didn't have one in stock but out of fear, he gave Erik a bricklayer's hod and told him it was a kitchen sink. Off went Erik feeling very happy.

Which all goes to show that a hod's as good as a sink to a blind Norse!

(From December 2010)

From the Archives **The American Connection**

Woodwork Links two Legions

A John Marshall in Ohio, USA, found that a Tom Ashmore in Leicestershire, UK who also used the same Internet Service Provider (ISP) for emails had an interest in woodwork. He sent the first of many emails exchanged between these two which are now stored in Tom's computer as a Market Harborough Branch archive. In the first dated 09/01/1997 John says, "I found your details while trying to find a cousin in your area and see we are both into woodwork". In his reply, Tom who had looked up his details noted that John was also involved with the American Legion saying "As it happens I have become very much involved in our local branch of the Royal British Legion and was recently elected their Chairman". John's reply mentions the similarity between the AL, RBL and the Canadian Legion. In his 'Post' he is the 'Vice Commander'. He also says he served for 15 years in the US Air Force some in Britain. In his response Tom hoped our Legion units could "and at least maintain an electronic link".

Many emails and official enquiries later, AL Con Weisenberger Post and RBL Market Harborough Branch became 'Sister' units confirmed at a ceremony on 8th June 1997. This was the first such link for TRBL.

See In Touch July 1997 Issue for photos

Miscellany

December 1916 News Items

- 1st Government inquiry on cartel conspiracy on food prices
- 2nd Business and employment military service exemption of under 25s removed
- 2nd Government to sponsor scientific research by industry
- 3rd Head of French Forces at the Somme replaced
- 7th Lloyd George becomes Prime Minister
- 25th Estimated deaths to date at Verdun 700,000 & at the Somme 650,999 Allies & 500,000 Germans

Christmas Cartoon



Some Cooperisms

I'm on a whiskey diet. I've lost three days already

I went to the Doctors the other day, and he said, 'Go to Bournemouth, it's great for 'flu. So I went, and I got it.'

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the HDC Chairman, veterans, members of the Branch, RNA and RAFA and many members of the public.

In the afternoon a **Sunset Ceremony** was held in the Memorial Gardens where for the preceding two weeks, the **Garden of Remembrance** with its WW1 and WW2 crosses had been displayed.

On **Remembrance Sunday** there was the usual Parade to the Parish Church for the very well attended Service followed by the Parade returning to The Square led by Standard Bearer, Hilary Brazil, carrying the Queen's Colour, an ATC Cadet with the Branch Standard and the ATC Band. Groups in the Parade included many young people outnumbering the adults. Waiting for them was a very large number of the public ready for



Leaving The Square

the short Service, Silence at eleven o'clock and then the laying of wreaths on the Memorial by representatives

of many local organisations. On the same morning, Branch member, Colin Budden, took part in the **Remembrance Parade at Whitehall** representing his old Regiment,

the Princess of Wales Royal and, of course, M H RBL.



The smaller audience this year at the **Remembrance Concert** on 19 November meant only about £470 was made for the Poppy Appeal.

George Seward 1929 - 2016

had died on 30 October and the funeral at Kettering Crematorium was on 29 November. At the Service led by Rev John Morley, George's son, Peter, spoke of the variety in his life and the many friends he had made, many of whom were present and at a buffet at The Angel Hotel. His granddaughter recalled some of the happiness he had given her.

Late Xmas Lunch at The Angel with RNA & RAFA 12.00 for 12.30

MENU

Chicken, ham & leek pie; Smoked haddock on mash; Sausage & mash; Turkey Balti/rice;; Stoganoff/rice Plum pudding; Chocolate fudge cake; Vanilla cheesecake +Tea or Coffee

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

- 3 Jan Lunch with RAFA & RNA
11 Jan Branch Meeting + talk by
County Scouts
Commissioner
7 Feb Lunch at The Angel
8 Feb Branch meeting + ??
8 Mar Anniversary Dinner Dance

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

'Waiting for Demob', Remember This?, News, etc.

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

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