

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

94

Years of Caring



**Market
Harborough
Branch**

Founded in 1923

Centenary Year of 1917



See p4 for why a camera is
on the cover this month

Next Monthly Branch Meeting
7.30 pm Wednesday 12 April
Committee 6 April

Function Room, Conservative Club,
Fairfield Rd. Market Harborough

Issue 222
March 2017

Branch News

February Branch Meeting

In the act of homage Members were asked to think especially of recently deceased, Mary Symon, who would be remembered particularly for her work on the Social side.

The Chairman welcomed Neill McClarence as a new Member and Eileen Booth who hoped to join the Branch. Joan Ashmore was about to go into Peaker Park and the Branch gave her and Tom their Best Wishes. He asked Members to look in the Legion Magazine at Strategy Points Impact, Membership, Remembrance and Operational Excellence and watch for future developments. Mr Standish had arranged to meet with Cllr Michael Rook, the Armed Forces Champion, on 3rd March in connection with the 'Veterans Gateway', the group of service and ex-service support organisations. The Memorial Portico Project was continuing slowly.

Members were asked to support the Anniversary Dinner to which HDC Chairman and Armed Forces Champion had been invited. The Secretary outlined Branch Community Support the new local 'welfare' system and the paperwork involved. The Treasurer reported a donation had been received from a funeral in lieu of flowers. Membership numbers were now shown as 138 but was still in doubt. The Poppy Appeal total to

date at £23,459.88 was about £4000 down on last year but collections from Sainsbury and the Poppy Football match had still to be received. In the Team reports it was stated that 26 people had attended the February Lunch, that the Standard would be at the Anniversary Dinner, that members would be welcome at the next Armed Forces Day Committee meeting and that In Touch was ready for distribution.

After Meeting Talk

The Commanding Officer of the Market Harborough Sea Cadets Lieutenant Shane Daley gave a very interesting insight into the opportunities available to today's Sea Cadets

Established in 1856 the Sea Cadets was created by communities wanting to give young people instruction on a naval theme. Today, 14,000 young people based in 400 units in towns, cities and ports across the UK are developing new skills, like sailing, boating and rock climbing and so challenging themselves but supported by 9,000 volunteers. Recently Market Harborough cadets have been on courses in Portsmouth and they have gained sailing and powerboat qualifications in Weymouth. Cadets can join at 10 years old and most come from our local schools. A Royal Marines Cadet Unit is now planned.

Cover Image

An early Digital Camera, the Kodak DC-50. Image found on the Internet

Remember This? (From March 2007)

AROUND THE WORLD WITH THE RBL

We stay in the UK for this visit to the web site of the Royal British Legion Village Branch in Aylesford.



The branch Union Flag was originally flown at the HQ of Field Marshall Earl Haig at the Chateau Beaufort at Montreuil-Sur-Mer, in 1918. (Earl Haig

The Royal British Legion Village, originally named the Preston Hall Colony, was founded after the First World War to help gassed and injured soldiers on their discharge from the Preston Hall hospital. It was the centre of a small farming community. In 1921, when The British Legion was founded, it became one of the first branches. Later, in 1925, it became the British Legion Village branch.

Over the years a thriving community has grown up helping all disabled veterans who either came from the hospital or moved into the area. In 1972 the Poppy Appeal headquarters of what was now called The Royal British Legion moved to the village. Now it is one of the main hubs of Legion life and an industrial complex houses Royal British Legion industries.

The branch has supplied several national chairmen of the Legion, notably Lt Col Sir C Gordon-Larking and Mr C Busby.

later went on to found the Poppy Appeal - originally called the Earl Haig Fund - and was one of those responsible for founding the Royal British Legion in 1921). The flag was then used as the first Union Flag at the Cenotaph on the first Remembrance Day which was always at that time held on the 11th November at 11am. It was then acquired by Captain W W Needham of the Exeter Branch of the Royal British Legion and presented to the HQ of the Royal British Legion.

Its history over the following 50 odd years seems to have been lost and the next time it surfaced was five years ago, hidden away in the Poppy Appeal warehouse. The Chairman of this branch persuaded the present Head of Poppy Appeal, Tony Davis, to loan this historic exhibit to the Capel Morris RBL Village Club to be put on permanent display.

Website

<http://branches.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/the-village>

Secretary

claire.jeffery@rbli.co.uk

Digital Photography Arrives in Market Harborough

and other thoughts by Tom Ashmore



Mass Mitec, the Lubenmham based Presentation Graphics company, today announces an important new product which could revolutionise the way in which photographic images can be integrated into presentation and all forms of printed material. The Kodak Digital Sciences DC-50 and -40 cameras do not use film! Photographs are stored electronically within the camera, and in the case of the DC-50, up to 35 high quality photographs can be stored on a PCNCIA card no bigger than a credit card.

The images shown above were taken at about 1pm on Thursday 12th April 1996.

This press release was sent to the then Branch Chairman, Tom Ashmore, who had been in touch with Mass Mitec regarding their activities.

There have been many advances in technology during the last 20 years but this area of digital photography must be one of the most outstanding. Like other developments it has become part of every day life and taken for granted and even the most 'technophobe' have a digital camera, often built in to their mobile phone.

Kodak's DC-50 could store 35 photos whereas my modest pocket sized



Kodak Easy Share V550 now has over 2000 pictures on its card and it only about 80% full. Digital data storage has developed from a memory card the size of a credit card, through mine one and a half times the size of a postage stamp to one smaller than half a stamp

and holding eight times what mine can. A card that size was in the surveillance camera the police installed in my house after I had been scammed by bogus tradesmen. Unlike the CCTV cameras in the street it was not wirelessly connected to a control centre. Whereas, the speed camera that found that I was travelling at more than 40 mph on a road signed with that as the limit, did 'talk to' the Northamptonshire police who gave me a 'black mark' on my licence.

All these cameras use light to activate the sensor from which the image is produced but other sources are also used. X-Ray images which were originally produced on film requiring time to develop but with cameras using suitable sensors, images are available instantly and of great value in medical activities such as surgery. Great advances have been made and continue to be made in the medical



field many using X-rays as the energy source as in the CT Scanner (seen above) but sound and heat are used in some applications.

N.B. Mass Mitec disappeared from Lubbenham several years ago.

History of Photography

Light produced images in permanent form was first achieved in the mid-1820s, but several days of exposure in the camera were required and the earliest results were very crude. Later Louis Daguerre went on to develop the daguerreotype process, the first publicly announced photographic process, which required only minutes of exposure in the camera and produced clear, finely detailed results. It was commercially introduced in 1839, a date generally accepted as the birth year of practical photography.

The metal-based daguerreotype process soon had some competition from the paper-based negative and salt print processes invented by William Henry Fox Talbot. Subsequent innovations reduced the required camera exposure time from minutes to seconds and eventually to a small fraction of a second; introduced new photographic media which were more economical, sensitive or convenient, including roll films for casual use by amateurs; and made it possible to take pictures in natural colour as well as in black-and-white.

The commercial introduction of computer-based electronic digital cameras in the 1990s soon revolutionized photography.

With acknowledgements to Wikipedia for the above extract.

Mined your Step

by Stephen Champion de Crespigny

A rigger whose name I can't remember, Tek McCoy, Ted Hughes and myself had been sent to do a job at RAF Fairlight, a radar site, which was on the south coast near to Hastings. On the Saturday afternoon we decided to take a walk along the cliff-top path to pass the time until teatime. We walked along the path towards the sea and came to a rock which jutted out from the cliff top like a diving board giving a good view of the beach below. We decided to follow a faint path which disappeared downwards towards the beach and with some difficulty managed to scramble down. On reaching the bottom of the cliff we found we were in a large rectangular barbed wire enclosure, each side with a notice facing away from us. I walked round to see what the notice said. "Danger! Keep out. Unexploded Mines"!!! We didn't panic, like Cpl Jones in Dad's Army, but after some thought, decided to carefully put our feet in our footprints in the sand or step on to sizeable rocks to climb up and out of the area half expecting to hear a bang!!

That's not quite the end.

Some years later there was a TV programme about mines scattered about the coast in preparation for a possible German invasion, and Fairlight Glen was mentioned as where the officer setting out the mines stepped on one and blew himself and his plans to bits.

Miscellany

March 1917 News Items

- 7th World's first jazz recording, 'The Dixieland one step', issued
- 8th Lord Kitchener "partly to blame for Dardanelles failure"
- 8th Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin, airship inventor, dies
- 14th Chinese government breaks relations with Germany
- 16th Czar Nicholas II abdicated ending Russian monarchy. Provisional government formed
- 22nd USA first country to recognise new Russian regime
- 26th In USA, 26,000 sailors enlisted & National Guard called up
- 29th A bill to enfranchise women over 30 to be introduced



March - daffodil month

A man in love is incomplete.
When he marries he's finished.

Zsa Zsa Gabor

The shortest way to do many things is to do only one thing at a time.

Samuel Smiles

If it ain't broke, don't fix it.

Bert Lance

From the Archives

Q-ships

The following is from extracts from a book on submarines and their role in warfare written by Sub. Lt. J.A.P. Blackburn, the father of the late Branch member, Honor Dugdale.

Externally, the Q-ship might be almost any type of vessel met with at sea - trawler, small coasting steamer, barque, brigantine, yacht or schooner. One characteristic all ships must possess in common: they had to look harmless, but to carry a concealed armament capable of being brought quickly into action.

The Q-ship would leave port by herself and doing everything to lay herself open to attack. She would have a double crew aboard, one half being told off as a "panic party," to abandon the ship when she was torpedoed, or catching it badly from gun-fire, whilst the other half lay "doggo" at their stations. When the enemy submarine came to the surface and opened fire, the "panic party" would precipitate themselves into the boats and dig out for the far horizon, and the Germans would then close to finish off the ship, until near enough for the unmasking of her battery; then down would go the "blinds" concealing the waiting guns, and before the U-boat could dive, a murderous fire at short range would send her to the bottom in a cloud of white and yellow smoke.

Continued from p2

Joan Ashmore

After several weeks of physical and mental decline due to her dementia, Joan died on 20th February aged 91 at Peaker Park care home.

Joan will be remembered for her vitality and how she interacted with people at branch activities such as Anniversary Dinners.

As a veteran she was proud of her service in the W.R.N.P from 1943 to 1945.

Joan is survived by husband Tom, two children, three grand children and one great granddaughter.

LUNCH AT THE ANGEL



for good food and good company

4 APRIL

**MEET IN THE
BAR AT NOON**

Menu

Chicken Supreme on mash; Roast loin of pork; Baked loin of cod on mash.

Fresh fruit salad; Crème brûlée; Vanilla Cheesecake & ice cream.

Tea or coffee and mints.

£ 9.25 paid on the day

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

- 4 Apr Lunch at The Angel
8 Apr RNA Coffee Morning @ MH Theatre
12 Apr Branch Meeting and talk - Harborough in Bloom
10 May RNA-Peterborough Dog racing & Dinner 6pm £20
10 May Branch meeting + talk by U3A Treasurer
14 Jun Branch meeting + talk by Glyn Iliffe on 1917
24 Jun Armed Forces Day @ Leics Cathedral
24 Jun RNA Cheese & Wine
25 Jun MH Armed Forces Day
5 Sep RNA Trip to Arboretum

Welfare

If you are aware of any one may benefit from the Legion welfare services ring **Betty Ramsay** on **01858 434923**

RBL Helpline

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

In Touch Next Month

Miscellany, Remember This?, News, etc.

Branch Contacts

Chairman

John Standish 0116 2404170
chairmhrbl@btinternet.com
5 Manor Rd, Fleckney, LE8 8TN
Mobile 07710 799595

Vice Chairman

Stewart Harrison
srh30232@gmail.com

Secretary, Welfare & Youth

Betty Ramsay 1858 434923
betty.ramsay@hotmail.co.uk

Treasurer & Membership Sec'y

Myra Grewcock 01858 419517
m.grewcock47@gmail.com
8 Holdenby Close, MH. LE16 8JE

Poppy Appeal

Dave Prior 01858 540431
Office - 6 Fairfield Road MH LE16 9QQ
01858 433492
paoteam@btinternet.com

Standard Bearer

Hilary Brazil c/o 01858 434923

Monthly Lunches

Kathie Morley 01858 419714
kathiemorley@talktalk.net

In Touch - Editor

Tom Ashmore 01858 433108
tashmore@ukvet.net
9 The Pastures, MH. LE16 9EA

Branch Website

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

The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the Editor or the Market Harborough Branch. The editor reserves the right to decide what is to be published and to edit material submitted. No part may be reproduced without prior permission.

The newsletter is online at www.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/market-harborough/newsletter