

What's Going On?

The Social & Fund-Raising Team Reports

DIARY OF EVENTS

If you would like to attend a Branch event but have no transport, please contact the Social Team and every effort will be made to help you.

- 11 Aug * Ibstock Brass Band Concert Lubenham Church
- 25 Aug Poppy Appeal Race Day
- 29 Aug * Trip to Poppy Factory
- 27 Oct Branch Coffee Morning Harborough Theatre
- 17 Nov Remembrance Concert
- 2008
- 1 Mar Branch Coffee Morning Harborough Theatre
- * Lutterworth Branch events, details from Beryl Morgan 01455 552876

For details of RNA events call Mike Middleton on MH 445827.

Lunch at the Angel Come and us for a tasty meal and good company at noon on Tuesday July 31.

Braised Breast of Chicken

served with Forestiere® Sauce and Roast Potatoes

(*Bacon Mushroom, Onion and Red Wine Gravy)

Or Poached Salmon, Mash with Parsley Sauce

All served with a selection of Vegetables

Or Vegetable Curry with a Timple of rice

Apple Pie with Creamy Vanilla Custard

Or Fresh Fruit Salad with Ice Cream

Or Vanilla Cheesecake topped with Strawberries

Fresh Coffee and Mints

Book NOW with Wendy Osborne on MH 467636

The Festival of Remembrance in Leicester

Book your place now for this popular evening on 3 November at De Montfort Hall featuring the Syd Lawrence Orchestra. Les Moore is arranging the tickets and transport (the Community buses) and must know numbers without delay. To avoid disappointment, call Les as soon as possible on 01858 463112.

The Royal British Legion
Market Harborough Branch

Reg. Charity 219279

www.mktharborbl.ukvet.net

Branch Contact Numbers

Hon. Secretary: Betty Ramsey - 01858 434923

Welfare: Vida Edwards - 0116 279 3729

Poppy Appeal: Caroline Windsor 01858 463660

Social & Fund Raising Team: Pat Middleton, 01858

445827 and Wendy Osborne 01858 467636

The date of the next Branch meeting is

August 8

Meetings are held on the Second Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm in the Function Room at the Conservative Club, Fairfield Road, Market Harborough. The Committee meets in the same room on the Thursday preceding the Branch Meeting at 7.00 pm.

In Touch

www.in-touch.ukvet.net

THE MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER OF THE
MARKET

HARBOROUGH

BRANCH OF THE
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Founded 1996

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Current File



The Royal British Legion

Market Harborough Branch

In Touch

Issue 106

July 2007



Branch shepherdess, Pat Walker, displays the rosettes she was awarded for her sheep at this year's Blaston Show.





How do foreigners ever learn our language?

For example there is a simple two-letter word that perhaps has more meanings than any other two-letter word. That word is "UP"!

It's easy to understand UP, meaning towards the sky or at the top of the list, but in the morning, why do we wake UP?

At a meeting, why does a topic come UP? Why do we speak UP and why are the officers UP for election and why is it UP to the secretary to write UP a report?

We call UP our friends and we use the word to brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver, we warm UP the leftovers and then clean UP the kitchen. We lock UP the house and someone fixes UP the old car!

The little word can have really special meanings; people stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP an appetite and think UP excuses!

To be dressed is one thing, but to be dressed UP is special!

And UP is often confusing. A drain must be opened UP because it is stopped UP. We open UP a store in the morning and close it UP at night!

In a dictionary, the word UP takes UP to a quarter of a page and can add UP to about thirty definitions.

If you are UP to it, you might try building UP a list of the many ways UP is used. It will take UP a lot of your time but you may end UP with a hundred or more!

Post your list to the Editor (look UP the address on the back page), email it or hand it in at the next meeting. The sender of the longest list will be UP for a prize, if I can come UP with something!

Contributed by John Liddell

**A Dip in the
IN TOUCH
Archives**
No 9 Sept 1997

A Fond Farewell

An echo of Empire
from 1945

Address presented on the occasion of the
Repatriation from India of
Capt K. Stimpson R.E. O.C 754 I.M.E. Platoon I.E.

"We have this day assembled here to pay our humble respects and homage to our worthy sympathetic Commanding Officer on the eve of his repatriation to his Home, The United Kingdom. As such our feelings can well be imagined. We are not only very sorry to have to part with him, but we are rather perplexed about it.

No doubt, Sir, you must be having any amount of pleasure in looking forward to your happy return to your awaiting kith and kin. Every one should like the same. We also do envy it. But at the same time our feeling at our having to part with you are intense.

You will agree with us that we, under your able and enthusiastic guidance have done our best to keep up the traditions of the Indian Engineers and have done our bit towards precipitating the victorious end of the war. We can never remember single occasion when we let down the cause of Victory. really speaking it is not only all due to your unparalleled qualities of initiative, sympathy and appreciation. But it should be needless to mention that your treatment



with every body from a sepoy to a V.C.O was such that it not only inspired our admiration for you, but simply won our hearts.

As such we pray to God to shower upon you and your nearest and dearest ones the choicest of his blessings that he can possibly have in His Stores and let the places where your feet take you flourish in roses and nightingales.

Before you leave us, Sir, we desire to impress upon you that you are leaving your goodwill and happy memories behind, which we always shall cherish for the rest of our lives. That will be our only consolation.

We hope, that your successor, Capt K.O. Perry, will do his best to keep our spirits as nice as have remained hitherto. In him we foresee the same traits of character as we have appreciated in you and we take this opportunity of assuring him that we will leave no stone unturned to maintain the same healthy relationship and efficiency in the unit.

A word here about Lieut B.H.C Robinson, R.E, we think should not be out of place. He has been all along quite understanding and magnificent towards us and we pray for his promotion in the near future.

In the end we request you that in case any one of us has happened to annoy you in his unguarded moment (Though we think that this never have been done - much less meant) you will bury it here and not allow our happy association in any way to be marred thereby. As a humble mark of our gratitude, we are presenting before you a humble token with a view to ever remind you of us and we request that you will very kindly accept it in the same spirit. This reminds us of one of the most passionate poets of your country in the name of Shelley when he composed the historic words that, "Our sweetest songs are those that tell of saddest thoughts"

So be it understood that our sweetest memories will be those that will represent our feelings of this time of having to sadly part with you."

(Ken Stimpson, who sadly passed away in 2005, was an active Member of the Branch for many years.)

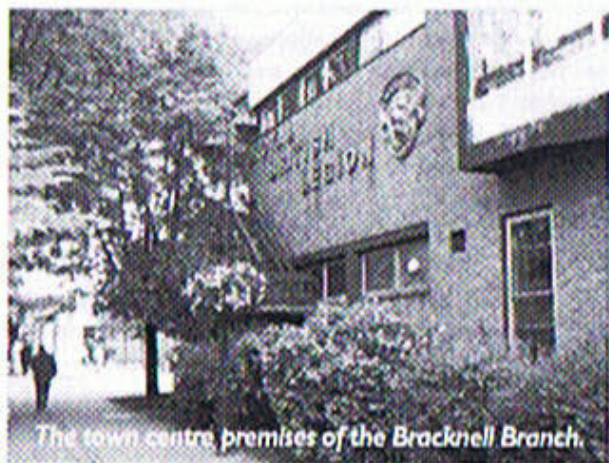


Around the World with the RBL

The Bracknell Branch

TOWN CENTRE,
BRACKNELL, BERKSHIRE

The origins of the Bracknell and district Royal British Legion date back to 1919, when the men of the village who served in the Great War, organised themselves and formed a "Comrades of the Great War Club". Their premises, which were situated on the eastern side of the village, was a construction of part brick and part corrugated iron and was to serve them for the next eleven years. When the British Legion came into existence in 1921, the club immediately affiliated as a Branch.



The town centre premises of the Bracknell Branch.

During the late 1920s a prominent local man, Harold Footman OBE, decided that the men who served the country so well were deserving of better premises and facilities which he offered to provide

from his own funds. This was a time of severe economic depression, with the unemployment figures at record high levels. Mr Footman insisted that only local labour should be used on the project – even the bricks were manufactured by the famous brick works situated in the village. Opened in 1930, the building dominated the village and was regarded as the finest Legion in the Southern England.



The superb Bracknell Branch Function Room.

Around 1950 Bracknell village, with a population of 5000, was designated a "New Town" under the New Town Act of 1949 and was to be developed along with other new towns to take a share of London's rapidly expanding population. The construction of houses and factories began almost immediately. As the houses were occupied, correspondingly the level of the branch membership increased substantially.

During the mid 1960s, a compulsory purchase order was served on the branch to make way for development of the town centre. After protracted negotiations, our Trustees were successful in reaching a satisfactory agreement, along with a limited choice of alternative sites.

We moved to our present location in 1968 with the official opening in 1969 by the then National Chairman of the Royal British Legion, Dennis Cadman.

Branch News Round-up

Branch President The post of President was now vacant and the late Peter Wilson had made it known that he would have supported the appointment of Brian Marshall as his successor. In making a formal proposal of this appointment, Mr Hudson cited the length of time Mr Marshall had been in the Town, the many people he knew and what he had done for RBL at County level. This proposal was seconded by Mr Liddell and carried unanimously.

Accepting the post of President, Brian Marshall said that he was very honoured and would do the best he could for the Branch and the Legion.

Welfare John Liddell stressed the need to keep the Welfare team informed of illness among Members. The team could not operate efficiently without such support and information.

The National Poppy Appeal The grand total raised was £26,015,863.42, a rise of 5.3% on 2005.

John Standish A letter of congratulations had been sent to John, who had been appointed MBE in the recent Birthday's Honours List.

Branch Donations £200 bequest from the late Mrs Doris Goodman, whose husband had been a Member before he died some 19 years ago, £200 from Mrs Joy Banting, the widow of Member Norman Banting, and £25 from Member Les Moore.

BRANCH MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

with much regret that we record the passing of Our President, Peter Wilson, Norman Banting, Jim O'Brien and Sandy Powell.

We welcome two new members:

01858 465165 Lunn Mrs J M (Janice)

37 Kingston Way, Margaret Harborough LE16 7KB

01858 464037 Mr I P Thomas (Philip)

30 Clark Street, Market Harborough, LE16 9AD

Please note the following amendment:

Change of address - Charles Catling c/o Ms R Marsh
4 Rolleston Close, Market Harborough LE16 8BZ

On the morning of September 19th 1944, Douglas C47 Dakota YS - L piloted by Flt. Lt. David S. A. Lord DFC, along with others of 271 Squadron RAF Transport Command, took off from their base at Down Ampney in Gloucestershire to re-supply beleaguered Allied troops at Arnhem in Holland. The Allied Airborne troops had been surrounded and were being pressed into a small area heavily defended by anti-aircraft guns. The air crews were told of this and also of the disastrous circumstances that many were enduring and so to ensure accuracy they were ordered to fly at 900 feet when dropping their containers.

While flying at 1,500 feet near Arnhem the starboard wing of Flt. Lt. Lord's Dakota was hit twice by anti-aircraft fire and as a result the starboard engine was set on fire. On learning that all his crew were un-injured and that the dropping zone was just 3 minutes away he decided he would complete his mission as the troops on the ground were in such dire need of supplies.

The Victoria Cross

UNSELFISH BRAVERY

*Flight Lieutenant
David Lord
VC DFC*



With the starboard engine burning furiously, Flt. Lt. Lord came down to 900 feet where he was singled out by all the anti-aircraft guns. Un-daunted he held his Dakota level and on course while the supplies were dropped. At the end of the run he was informed by the dispatchers that two containers remained.

Although he must have known that the starboard wing would collapse at any time he circled, rejoined the stream of aircraft and made a second run to drop the remaining containers. His task completed, Flt. Lt. Lord ordered his crew to abandon the aircraft, making no attempt to do so himself thereby giving his crew members the best chance they had of successfully baling out. A few seconds later the starboard wing finally collapsed and the aircraft fell in flames. There was only one survivor - Harry King who survived the war and who died a few years ago.

Flight Lieutenant Lord was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross.

Contributed by John Cox

Letter to the Editor

Sir,

I understand that following your report of my resignation as Vice President "for personal reasons", there have been concerns over my state of health and it has been suggested that I should say something about the reason for my decision. My normal reply to the question, "How are you?" was, and still is, "As well as can be expected at my time of life!", so health was not the concern.

For some years, I have been sending an email each month, initially saying that the latest issue of *In Touch*, was on line. Since February this year, the scope of the email was extended to provide links to items of potential interest I had found in the websites of other branches.

I had not asked recipients for permission to send this, so consequently, I have been sending "Unsolicited email" and therefore deemed to have been in contravention of the Data Protection Act. Furthermore, because my "signature" stated my position as an officer of the branch, the branch committee saw itself as acting illegally and ruled that these mailings must stop immediately.

I have long believed that communication between branches is important and I have corresponded with many people I have "met" through these mailings, but to ensure that any future contact was on a personal basis and did not imply the authority of or endorsement by, the branch, I chose to resign my position as Vice President.

Given the appropriate legal safeguards, I believe that what I saw as a service to fellow Legion members should be resumed. As a first step I have written to previous recipients asking if they would wish to

receive future communications. So far the response has been positive with many expressing appreciation of what I had been doing and the wish to see it continued. So, Mr Editor, I hope to be able to suggest further contributions to your series, "Around the World with RBL".

But there is a twist to this tale! The Regulatory Authority for the Data Protection Act, the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) has a very informative web-site in which is a facility for seeking further information or advice. Subsequent to my resignation, I used this to describe what I had been doing, to ask where I could find guidance and what aspects of the regulations applied. I have recently had a reply in which it is stated "This is not a contravention of the regulations we cover."

I am relieved to know that I have not caused the Branch to act illegally.

Tom Ashmore