

# What's Going On?

The Social & Fund-Raising Team Reports

## DIARY OF EVENTS

The date of the next Branch meeting is  
**June 10**

- 13/14 Jun Gt Central Railway even, Quorn
- 20 Jun RNA Wine & Cheese Party
- 27 Jun Armed Forces Day
- 28 Jun Drumhead Service, Mkt Harborough (See page 2)
- 12 July Poppy Walk, London
- 8 Aug Newmarket Race Day (See below)
- 17 Oct Coffee Morning Harborough Theatre

**Les Moore has a few coach seats left on the the Poppy Race Day trip at a cost of £25 for travel and entry to Newmarket Races.**

**This is always an enjoyable day out - join the party and contact Les now on 01858 463112.**

### SUPPORT YOUR BRANCH - GET INVOLVED



**Lunch at  
The Angel  
Tuesday  
June 2**

**We meet in the  
bar at Noon  
Reserve your  
place now with  
Wendy Osborne  
on 01858 467636**

#### MENU

##### Baked White Fish

*with white wine and dill sauce and  
mashed potatoes*

##### Strips of Chicken

*in a mushroom, red wine and  
tarragon sauce with crushed new potatoes*

##### Mushroom Pasta

*with garlic bread*



##### Raspberry & Chocote

*Cheesecake with cream*

##### Fresh Fruit Salad with cream

##### Bread & Butter Pudding

*with custard*

**Only £7**

**Join us and enjoy good food in congenial company.**

## The Royal British Legion Market Harborough Branch

Reg. Charity 219279

Hon. Secretary:

Sara Whitley-Kinzett 01858 434476

**Welfare:**

Vida Edwards 0116 279 3729

Betty Ramsay 01858 434923

**Poppy Appeal Organiser:**

Dave Pryor 01858 545612

**Standard Bearer**

George Fleming 01858 462711

**Social & Fund Raising Team:**

Glenys Hocking-Davies 01858 467835

Wendy Osborne 01858 467636

Les Moore 01858 463112

Freda Carnell 077 422 987 68

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](http://www.in-touch.ukvet.net)

THE MONTHLY  
NEWSLETTER OF THE  
MARKET

HARBOROUGH  
BRANCH OF THE  
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION  
Founded 1996

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# The Royal British Legion

Market Harborough Branch

## In Touch

Issue 128

May 2009



**ARMED FORCES DAY**

**27 JUNE**

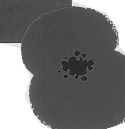
Honouring Britain's Armed Forces  
Past, Present and Future

## DRUMHEAD SERVICE

Market Harborough  
Sunday, 28 June 2009

**Details on page 2**

THE ROYAL BRITISH  
LEGION



*Ee aye addio,  
we've won  
the cup!*

It's official, and here's the cup to prove it! Market Harborough is the fastest growing Branch in Leicestershire.



## A Three Hundred Mile Trek for Sara Our Sec

Accompanied only by her two 'boys', wagging their tails behind them, Branch Secretary Sara Whitley-Kinzett is about to set off on a 'walkies' the like of which very few of us would ever contemplate.

The indefatigable Sara is planning to walk the Pennine Way from Edale, near Sheffield, to Kirk Yetholm, over the Border near Kelso, a distance of some three hundred miles. The highest point on the journey is Cross Fell at over 3,000 feet.

Sara is looking for sponsorship and donations to her favoured charity, SARDA (Search and Rescue Dog Association), and she is hopeful that Branch Members will give her their generous support. Further details of how to donate will be given after Sara returns in about five weeks time. Meanwhile it is hoped to include a progress report in next month's *In Touch*.



## AIR TRAINING CORPS 1076 Squadron Activities

*John Standish reports*

John accompanied 1084 Squadron to an event at RAF Kinloss and the Band had played at the Menin Gate, where John laid a wreath on behalf of the Branch. He was honoured and deeply touched to be asked to say the words of Remembrance during the Service. Afterwards an Air Commodore had spoken to John about the ATC and RBL Affiliation and Market Harborough Branch is now on the map at Command Level.

The Squadron Band achieved further success at the Wing Contest, as John was delighted to report. The Band came first for the third time in succession. For the second time another first came in the Fanfare. The Percussion came second, missing top spot by just one point. The Band will be taking part in the Central and East Regional Contest in September.

Mark Hudson wished the Squadron well in future competition and expressed the admiration of the



I would like to thank all who sent me greetings on the occasion of one of those 'Milestone' birthdays which end with a Big O. I'm not sure whether I am over the moon to have passed this particular milestone as I am now an OBE (Over B\*\*\*\*y Eighty).



Branch for their dedication and work involved. He took the opportunity to inform Members that the Cadets had given up their adventure holiday weekend to play at the Armed Services Day Drumhead Service next month, a gesture greatly appreciated by the Organising Committee.

*John wishes to point out that the wording of the caption to the photo of the standard bearers at the Menin Gate in last month's In Touch could be interpreted that they are from 1084 Squadron, which isn't the case.*

## Branch News Round-up

**Poppy Appeal** Dave Pryor announced Branch wristbands with the words "Remember the dead – don't forget the living" were now available for sale.

Next year's appeal would be launched on June 1 and Dave will be beginning building a team of volunteers. He planned a change of approach to engage the younger members of the community with the aim of reaching a target in excess of £28,000.

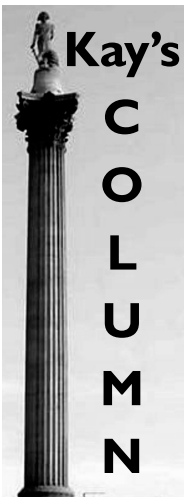
**65th Normandy Landing Celebrations** Mark Hudson and Members will lay a wreath at each Beach. A sample wreath with the new Branch logo was displayed with crosses for personal memorials.

I apologise to Members at the Branch Meeting on May 13 who were kept waiting patiently by my late arrival with my family. Although my 'children',



Christine and Peter, with his partner Ruth, had been put in the picture, it was a complete surprise to me when I was presented with a superb cake from Branch Members.

My sincere thanks to everyone who contributed towards my enjoyment of a very special day.



Head office is abuzz with preparations for Annual Conference as I write. This year's event in Eastbourne will be my third Conference and, would you believe, it is something I really look forward to?

I love getting the chance to chat to members – something I don't get enough time to do generally. I hope to see a couple of you there – please say hello if you see me flying around.

Most of all, I love the pageantry of Conference, the opening and closing ceremonies, the parade and my favourites – standard bearers. I am always in awe of how straight, smart and still they are – it's not something I could do as I have a history of nervous giggling at the wrong moment, can't stand still to save my life and have never been able to see my face in my shoes. So I really admire everyone who carries their branch standards with such pride.

In my last column, I told you about the visit of HM The Queen to head office. This time I can report a visit of quite another nature – for the first time ever, we had a rapper performing in the office to launch the Festival for Heroes at Blenheim Palace on 20 June (more details in May's LegionLetter). The boardroom was decked out like a nightclub with flashing lights and a smoke machine and the walls of the office pounded with the beat of Ironik's latest hit – all in all, a bit different from a Trustees' meeting!

**Kay Callaghan**

## Remember our Diggers



25th April

### ANZAC Day 2009 Parade of Standards in Victoria Park, Leicester



**The first Armed Forces Day is 27 June 2009, and is an opportunity for the nation to show our support for the men and women who make up the Armed Forces community: from currently serving troops to Service families, and from veterans to recruits.**

### The Commemoration in Market Harborough

The Market Harborough Branches of the Royal British Legion, the Royal Naval Association, the Royal Air Forces Association, the Air Training Corps and the St John Ambulance, have organised a Drumhead Service to be held in The Square at 12.30 pm on Sunday 28 June.

The Service will be conducted by The Very Revd John Morley with music by the Harborough Band, the Band of 1084 Squadron Air Training Corps, and a Piper.

A Roll Call Book of Honour is being compiled containing records of all known surviving Veterans of the Armed Forces, including National Servicemen, residing in the Market Harborough District. The Book will be presented to the Chairman of Harborough District Council at the end of the Service.

A form is enclosed with this newsletter and eligible Members are urgently requested to enter their personal details for inclusion in the Book.

All Members are urged to support this commemoration of Veterans of the Armed Forces. We often criticise the lack of recognition of Veteran ex-Service men and women in this country, so grasp this opportunity to show they are certainly not forgotten in Market Harborough!

## Two Linked American Sagas

A world of information is available to us by courtesy of the Internet. Most of it is of good quality, although unfortunately some is suspect. Those with computers know that items of interest are passed around and here is an excellent example from America from Careen Wild..

### The First Story

Many years ago, Al Capone virtually owned Chicago. Capone wasn't famous for anything heroic. He was notorious for enmeshing the windy city in everything from bootlegged booze and prostitution to murder.

Capone had a lawyer nicknamed "Easy Eddie." He was Capone's lawyer for a good reason. Eddie was very good! In fact, Eddie's skill at legal manoeuvring kept Big Al out of jail for a long time. To show his appreciation, Capone paid him very well. Not only was the money big, but Eddie got special dividends, as well. For instance, he and his family occupied a fenced-in mansion with live-in help and all of the conveniences of the day. The estate was so large that it filled an entire Chicago City block. Eddie lived the high life of the Chicago mob and gave little consideration to the atrocity that went on around him.

Eddie did have one soft spot, however. He had a son that he loved dearly. Eddie saw to it that his young son had clothes, cars, and a good education. Nothing was withheld and price was no object. And, despite his involvement with organized crime, Eddie even tried to teach him right from wrong. Eddie wanted his son to be a better man than he was. Yet, with all his wealth and influence, there were two things he couldn't give his son; he couldn't pass on a good name or a good example.

One day, Easy Eddie reached a difficult decision. Easy Eddie wanted to rectify wrongs he had done. He decided he would go to the authorities and tell the truth about Al "Scarface" Capone, clean up his tarnished name, and offer his son some semblance of integrity. To do this, he would have to testify against The Mob, and he knew that the cost would be great. So, he testified.

Within the year, Easy Eddie's life ended in a blaze of gunfire on a lonely Chicago Street. But in his eyes, he had given his son the greatest gift he had to offer, at the greatest price he could ever pay. Police removed from his pockets a rosary, a crucifix, a religious medallion, and a poem clipped from a magazine.

The poem read: *"The clock of life is wound but once, and no man has the power to tell just when the hands will stop, at late or early hour. Now is the only time you own. Live, love, toil with a will. Place no faith in time. For the clock may soon be still."*

### The Second Story

World War II produced many heroes. One such man was Lieutenant Commander Butch O'Hare. He was a fighter pilot assigned to the aircraft carrier Lexington in the South Pacific. One day his entire squadron was sent on a mission. After he was airborne, he looked at his fuel gauge and realized that someone had forgotten to top off his fuel tank. He would not have enough fuel to complete his mission and get back to his ship. His flight leader told him to return to the carrier. Reluctantly, he dropped out of formation and headed back to the fleet.

As he was returning to the mother ship, he saw something that turned his blood cold; a squadron of Japanese aircraft was speeding its way toward the American fleet. The American fighters were gone on a sortie, and the fleet was all but defenceless. He couldn't reach his squadron and bring them back in time to save the fleet. Nor could he warn the fleet of the approaching danger. There was only one thing to do. Somehow he must divert them from the fleet.

Laying aside all thoughts of personal safety, he dived into the formation of Japanese planes. Wing-



Grumman F4F Wildcat

mounted guns blazed as he charged in attacking one surprised enemy plane and then another. Butch wove in and out of the now broken formation and fired at as many planes as possible until all his ammunition was finally spent.

Undaunted, he continued the assault. He dived at the planes, trying to clip a wing or tail in hopes of damaging as many enemy planes as possible, rendering them unfit to fly. Finally, the exasperated Japanese squadron took off in another direction.

Deeply relieved, Butch O'Hare and his tattered fighter limped back to the carrier. Upon arrival, he reported in and related the event surrounding his return. The film from the gun-camera mounted on his plane told the tale. It showed the extent of Butch's daring attempt to protect his fleet. He had, in fact, destroyed five enemy aircraft.

This took place on February 20 1942, and for his action Butch became the Navy's first Ace of W.W.II, and the first Naval Aviator to win the Medal of Honor. A year later Butch was killed in aerial combat at the age of 29. His home town would not allow the memory of this WW II hero to fade, and today, O'Hare Airport in Chicago is named in tribute to the courage of this great man.

So, if ever you find yourself at O'Hare International, give some thought to visiting Butch's memorial displaying his statue and his Medal of Honor. It's located between Terminals 1 and 2.

What do these stories have to do with each other? Butch O'Hare was "Easy Eddie's" son.



Lt Com O'Hare