

# What's Going On?

The Social & Fund-Raising Team Reports

## DIARY OF EVENTS

The date of the next Branch meeting is  
**September 9**

- 9 Sep Branch Meeting with Quiz
- 11 Sep ATC Annual Charity Ball
- 18/19 Sep Wings Collections Mornings ) *Please see page 2*
- 19 Sep RAFA 'Brew for the Few' ) *for details of*
- 20 Sep RAFA Battle of Britain Service ) *RAFA events*
- 16 Oct October Branch Meeting - **REVISED DATE**
- 17 Oct Poppy Appeal Coffee Morning Harborough Theatre
- 21 Nov Remembrance Concert
- 8 Dec December Branch Meeting - **REVISED DATE 2010**
- 5 Jan Christmas Lunch, with RNA and RAFA
- 9 Mar Branch Anniversary Dinner at MH Golf Club

### SUPPORT YOUR BRANCH - GET INVOLVED



## Lunch at The Angel

**Tuesday  
September 1**

*We meet in the  
bar at Noon*

**Reserve your  
place now with  
Wendy Osborne  
on 01858 467636**

### MENU

#### Roast Port

*With stuffing, roast potatoes & veg*

#### Cheese Salad

*with coleslaw & warm new potatoes*

#### Strips of Chicken

*In honey & mustard sauce, with  
mashed potatoes and vegetables*



#### Apple & Caramel Pie

*with vanilla ice cream*

#### Fresh Fruit Salad

#### Cherry Bakewell Cheesecake

*with mini jug of cream*

**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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permission of the Committee*



# The Royal British Legion

**Market Harborough Branch**

## In Touch

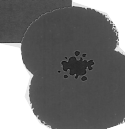
Issue 131

August 2009



*What's going on?  
All is revealed inside.*

THE ROYAL BRITISH  
LEGION



**Geoff Moth, Wings Appeal Organiser  
Market Harborough RAFA**

01858 432275 e-mail [geoff@themoths.co.uk](mailto:geoff@themoths.co.uk)

Our principal collection days will be on Friday and Saturday, 18th and 19th September, from 9.00 am until 12.00 noon. As in 2008 we have permission to collect from certain sites on Tuesday 15th.

I should be most grateful to anyone who is willing to assist in the collection. Please let me know as soon as possible if you are able help so that I can arrange cover for as many parts of the town centre as possible.

We shall be holding our 'Brew for the Few' Coffee Morning in the Theatre Lounge on Saturday 19th September from 9.30 am until noon. Please spread the word so that we can have maximum attendance.

The Battle of Britain Service will be held at St Nicholas Church, Little Bowden on Sunday 20th September at 10.45 am.

Thank you in anticipation of your kind support.

**Just a Bit of Fun**

The Sunday Express reported that a Mrs X was climbing into the bath one afternoon when she remembered she had left some cakes in the oven. Naked, she dashed downstairs and was removing the cakes when she heard a noise at the door. Thinking it was the baker, and knowing he would come in and leave a loaf of bread on the kitchen table if she didn't answer his knock, the woman darted into the broom cupboard. A few moments later she heard the back door open and the sound of footsteps coming towards the cupboard. It was the man from the gas company, coming to read the meter. "Oh," said the woman, "I was expecting the baker." The gas man blinked, excused himself and departed.



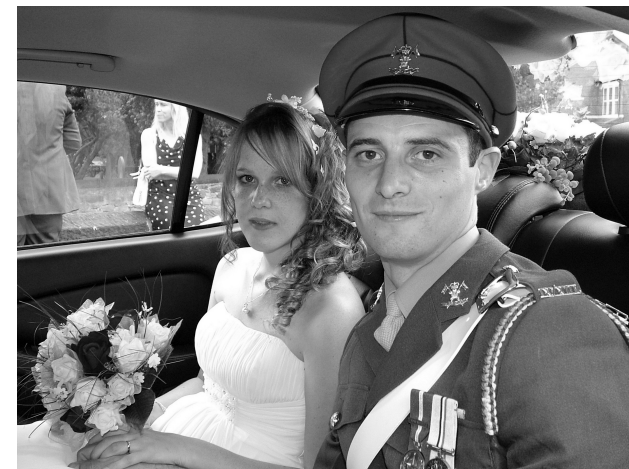
Many Members will remember the late Dick Fulford, seen above with Christopher, who was helping Granddad with the Poppy Appeal in 1990.

Dick would be raising a glass of his favourite red tippie with pride as Christopher, now grown a bit, is photographed by Mum Marion at RAF Cranwell, having just graduated as Flying Officer Vine.

It is hoped to report on Chris's Royal Air Force career from time to time.

Hearty congratulations, Chris, from all your fellow Branch Members!

## An introduction to our Branch Members in the Armed Forces



Congratulations and all good wishes to young Branch Members, Amy and Andrew Heighton, who were married recently.

Andrew is with the 9th-12th Royal Lancers in Germany and has served in Iraq. He will shortly be setting off to Canada for training before being posted for a spell of duty in Afghanistan. It is hoped that Andrew will update us on his progress.

The son of Rachel, wife of Poppy Appeal Organiser, Dave Pryor, Andrew was a member of the Army Cadet Force in Market Harborough and has served in the Army for eight and a half years. Amy's mother is German and her father is a Geordie from Newcastle, which might have something to do with her attractive, if somewhat unusual, accent!

# THE WIPERS TIMES

*The editor recently purchased a book, published in 2006, containing the complete series of the famous wartime trench newspaper, The Wipers Times. As you will see from Ian Hislop's foreword the Times was an amazing publication produced in almost impossible circumstances. There is much humour, although, inevitably, a lot of it is out-dated and not readily understood by today's reader. Nevertheless, I shall trawl through its pages and reproduce items from time to time which, I hope, are still capable of raising a smile.*

## FOREWORD by IAN HISLOP

'Oh, to be in Belgium now that winter's here.' This is the unmistakable voice of *The Wipers Times*, and ninety years since it first appeared I am delighted to see the complete collection back in print. This extraordinary magazine was written, printed, distributed and read by British soldiers serving in the trenches of the Western Front during the First World War. It was produced on an abandoned printing press salvaged from the ruins of Ypres — hence the title with the classic British mispronunciation — and was an immediate success from its first edition. It continued to appear throughout the war and subsequently reissued in the following years of peace. Its extraordinary mix of sarcasm, black humour and sentimental poetry make it a unique record of the period. It is quite literally laughing in the face of death, with jokes about flamethrowers and gas attacks from the troops who were facing them. It is also very rude about senior officers, the home front and the organization of the war. It is Blackadder for real and an obvious forerunner of magazines like *Private Eye*.

I have long been an admirer of *The Wipers Times*, and once made a documentary about it for BBC Radio Four called *Are We As Offensive As We*

*Might Be?* This was a question which staff officers from headquarters used to ask troops in the front line when they thought that they were insufficiently keen to go over the top and attack the Germans. It became a sort of catchphrase for the writers of the magazine, who would ask each other, 'Are we as offensive as we might be?' I thought that this was very British - as was the fact that the editor, a very talented man called Captain Fred Roberts, was working on the copy for an edition of the magazine called *The Somme Times* during the Battle of the Somme. He was correcting proofs in the trench and yet he went on to win the Military Cross for bravery in that very battle. That's an editor who commands respect.

Roberts wrote that war was mostly about 'wallowing in a ditch', but he and his writers managed to create something finer, funnier and more life-enhancing from their grim situation. I think that *The Wipers Times* has often been unjustly ignored and that it is actually firmly in the great tradition of British comic literature. The authors would probably have laughed at that idea, too.

*(The Wipers Times is published by Little Books Ltd., and available at present on line from Amazon.)*

For sale, cheap, Desirable Residence. Climate warm, fine view. Splendid links close by, good shooting. Terms moderate. Owner going abroad - Apply Feddup, Gordon Farm, nr Wipers.

Branch  
News  
Round-up

*... and now for  
the good news*

Recent reports indicating the possible demise of the Branch have, happily, proved to be premature. Yes, folks, we now have a Treasurer. At the August meeting, our saviour was introduced and heartily welcomed with prolonged applause.

Gender-wise, it is not possible to describe our new Treasurer as a knight in shining armour, but Mrs Myra Grewcock, who will also undertake the duties of Membership Secretary, is certainly the feminine equivalent thereof!

There is a family connection to the Branch as Mrs Grewcock is the daughter of long-standing member, Bertie Thorold.

The Chairman wishes to thank Members who offered their services, albeit on a short time basis, in order to overcome our problem.

**Social Committee Chairperson** Glenys Hocking-Davies will reluctantly have to relinquish this post at the end of the year and a successor is sought.

**Festival of Remembrance** This year's event at the de Montfort Hall has been cancelled.

**The Poppy Appeal** Dave Pryor, PAO, is recruiting volunteer collectors and Members will be asked to sign up at the next meeting.

**Poppy Race Meeting** The event at Newmarket was enjoyed and the Chairman thanks the organiser, Les Moore, and George Fleming, who was among the eighty standard bearers in attendance.

### BRANCH MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

*It is with much regret that we record the passing of  
Cliff Holt, Saddington, at the age of 93.*

**We welcome two new members:**

Stewart R **Harrison**, 16 Brookside Gardens,  
School Street, Fleckney LE8 8AB 0116 240 1779  
Stephen **Champion de Crespigny**, Coachman's Cot-  
tage, Kelmars Hall, Kelmars NN6 9LY 01604 686474

# Sergeant's ferret keeps pot filled

(HQ 2 Div P.R). When 45-year-old Colour Sergeant Godfrey Edwards, of the 1st Light Infantry, from Penzance, goes hunting for rabbits in the country round Lübbecke, West Germany, he gene-

rally attracts an audience of farmers and local huntsmen because he uses a ferret — a rare sight for the Germans.

## NO LACK OF RABBIT PIE

"She must have caught 200 rabbits in the Lübbecke area over the last two years," said Godfrey, known to his friends as Goff. "It's kept a lot of people in rabbit pie."

He bought his female ferret from a farmer near Oxford for £1 and brought her to Lübbecke, where he has been stationed for six years.

It was no sudden whim which prompted the purchase because Goff has kept ferrets since he was a boy and once had five on the go at once.

Goff, whose parents Mr and Mrs Charles Edwards live in Trenoweth Crescent, Alverton Estate, Penzance, returns to England next month to prepare for retirement after 22 years service. As a country lover all his life he has chosen game conservancy for his resettlement course and will be looking for a job as a gamekeeper for his second career.

A keen angler as well as ferreter Goff also keeps two budgies and a parrot in his Lübbecke quarter. The parrot once escaped and flew to the top of the HQ 2 Division building. "It cost me a hefty fee to the local fire service before I got it back," said Goff.



During his service Goff, who is married with three children, has served in Aden, Gibraltar, the West Indies, North Africa, Norway and Northern Ireland and had three tours in Germany.

## Happy Memories from Vida's Scrapbook

*Vida Edwards, who does so much for needy Members in her role as Welfare Representative, has opened her scrapbook to show us these newspaper cuttings from the 1970s and a photograph of her late husband, Goff, and his secret weapon in the Rabbit War Campaigns.*

A SIGHT that many Germans are getting used to in Lübbecke, West Germany, is of 45-year-old Colour Sergeant Godfrey Edwards out rabbiting with his ferret.

For watching a ferret at work is a rare sight in Germany, and Sgt. Edwards, of Penzance, usually attracts an audience of farmers and local huntsmen when he is out.

Sgt. Edwards, who is stationed at Lübbecke with the 1st Light Infantry, said that his ferret had caught about 200 rabbits in the area over the past two years. "It's kept a lot of people in rabbit pie," he said.

He bought the ferret, a female, from a farmer near Oxford for £1 and took her to Germany with him six years ago.

Sgt. Edwards, whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Edwards, live at Trenoweth Crescent, Alverton, Penzance, will be returning to England next month to prepare for his retirement after 22 years service. As a country lover, Sgt. Edwards, who is married with three children, has chosen game conservancy for his resettlement course, and he eventually hopes to find a job as a gamekeeper.

Sgt. Edwards is also a keen angler and a bird lover. He keeps two budgies and a parrot at his quarters and once gave a hefty fee to the local fire service to get the parrot back from the top of the HQ 2 Division building after it had escaped.

During his service, Sgt. Edwards has served in Aden, Gibraltar, the West Indies, North Africa, Northern Ireland, and Germany.