



The Royal British Legion Stamford Branch

Formed 7 June 1922

Websites: <http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/stamford>
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Affiliated with : 2 Squadron (Stamford Detachment), Lincolnshire Army Cadet Force, 2005
: 2071 (Stamford) Squadron, Air Training Corps, 2007
Twinned with Isle of Bute Branch, Royal British Legion Scotland, 2009

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Newsletter – April 2013

National Conference

I shall be your Branch delegate at this year's National Conference in Llandudno in Wet Wales on 18/19 May. The number of motions for debate continues to decline, but this year there are a couple proposing fundamental changes to how the Legion should operate. The more 'interesting' motions, on which I need our members' instructions are:

- **Charter Motion 1** is a proposal by the Board of Trustees for wholesale changes to our Royal Charter. Many of the changes are welcome and will tidy a complicated document. The transfer of the Regulations to the management handbook in particular will much simplify the Charter. The authors have done a difficult job excellently. One amendment – to Rule 14 – will however remove the current right of National Conference to reject any motions put forward by the Trustees in the future, effectively giving the Trustees total, unfettered power to propose and do whatever they wish in the future. They state that Conference, 'which has no responsibility under Charter Law,' can reject changes to the Articles in the Royal Charter proposed by the Trustees and 'can create difficulties for' them. They do not explain these 'difficulties'. They also make it clear that we delegates will be able to vote for or against the whole package of changes and not be able to 'cherry pick'.
- **Charter Motion 3** is our Stamford Branch proposal, ironically, for Conference to be allowed a more meaningful role in the governance of the Legion.
- **Motion 8** would rescind the current arrangement where the annual membership fee rises by £1 each year to a total of £16 on 1 October 2016. It is currently £13. Instead, it proposes a fee of £16 with effect from 1 October 2013 (except for Youth Members).

The other motions are less contentious, proposing better security of pension rights for Servicemen and women who are made redundant, the need for more effective publicity and a clearer mission statement by the Legion, coordinating the launch of the Poppy Appeal and organising a specific market day activity by all Branches throughout the country, the offer of one year's free Legion membership to personnel leaving the Armed Forces, the striking of a medal for members of Bomber Command in WWII, and to ask the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to maintain UK-based war graves to the same standards as they do overseas.

We shall discuss these motions in Committee on 14 May but it would be helpful if you could let me, or another Committee Member, have your thoughts before then.

Steve Bonde
Stamford Branch Delegate

Lincolnshire Bomber Command Memorial

A Memorial is to be erected near Lincoln to honour the effort and sacrifice made by the County's Bomber Command personnel during WWII. Its aims are:

- To honour the 25,611 Bomber Command aircrew who were lost flying from Lincolnshire airfields, and those Bomber Command aircrew from Lincolnshire who flew from bases outside the County.
- To recognise the effort and sacrifice made by all who served on Lincolnshire's wartime Bomber Command bases.
- To educate and inform younger generations of the bravery displayed and suffering endured by all sides between 1939 and 1945.

The memorial will be high on the ridge between RAF Waddington and Canwick, overlooking Lincoln and the Cathedral. The site will become the hub of the Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Trail, and have strong connections with the Bomber Command Association, the RAF Museum etc. The Appeal will formally be launched at the East Kirkby Aviation Heritage Centre on 30/31 May, under the wing of its Lancaster 'Just Jane'.

The project will include an Interpretation/Visitor Centre and will cost £3 million and fundraising will begin after the formal launch in May. If you wish to contribute, or learn more, go to www.lincsbombercommandmemorial.com

Eric Rawlings

As many members will know by now, our member Eric Rawlings passed away at home on 15 March. Eric had been ill for a very long time. We send our deepest sympathies to Sylvia and the her family.

Eric's funeral will take place at Barn Hill Methodist Church at 11.00am on Tuesday, 2 April.

We will remember him.

Speaker Training

We are talking to a Legion department which offers to train Branch members in the art of speaking in public on Legion subjects. Several of us already speak in Stamford schools in November about the Poppy and Remembrance. I also speak to groups around Stamford more generally about the work of the Legion.

We would like to develop our pool of speakers and their range and we have been offered a training course at a date still to be arranged. This will last about four hours, probably one afternoon in Clare Close Community Room, and will provide basic training and tips on how to perform well as a public speaker

If you would like to take part, please let me know within the next week or so. May I add that we do not want you to see this course as just a pleasant afternoon out; we shall expect you afterwards to go into our schools and elsewhere to promote the Legion and its work. However I do, as I have mentioned above, public speaking on various subjects and it is not only a pleasurable activity but gets you to meet all kinds of interesting groups and people. I do recommend it.

Future Meetings/Sausage & Mash

A hitch has arisen which means that we shall not be able to hold our future Branch meetings at the *Danish Invader*. We are however discussing a generous offer by Stamford Football Club to host our meetings in their Club Room at Wothorpe Road. Further details will be in the next, May, newsletter.

Meanwhile, our next, April, monthly meeting will of course be the *Sausage & Mash Happening* at Ketton Sports Club on 23 April, eating off at 12.30 for 1.00pm (not 12.00 for 12.30pm as stated last month). There are still a few places left. But hurry – give Pat Savory a ring (755208) quickly to book a place. Cost is £9, payable at the door.

Computer Repairs

Are you unsure about tackling your computer when it makes nasty spitting noises at you, or flashes mysterious lights, or just simply ignores you? Then Helen & Rob Bidwell-Bonde might be able to help.

They have offered to try to repair your recalcitrant computer, without obligation, for a flat fee of £10 plus £5 for the Branch.

Helen has an Honours Degree from Loughborough in IT and her day-time job is sorting out computer systems which do not want to cooperate. Rob does not have a professional qualification but he is also very good. For a reference, ask Beryl Ingham!

You can contact Helen and Rob on 01780 763675, preferably in the evenings or weekends.

Electrical Organ on offer



The electrical organ pictured here is looking for a good home. It is a General Music *Topaz* and has two 44 note keyboards and a 13 note pedalboard. It can reproduce every instrument of the orchestra and plays a whole range of rhythms. Its dimensions are 44½" (L) x 34½" (H) x 19" (W).

If you know of someone or group who would like this instrument, it is there for the taking in the Clare Close Community Room. Please ring me for access.

In brief...

ANZAC Day, 25 April

Barnack Branch will take part in the ceremony, starting at 2.00pm at Sgt Hunter's grave at Broadway Cemetery, Peterborough. Sgt Hunter, the 'Lonely ANZAC', died of wounds in Peterborough on 31 July 1916 and is the only ANZAC buried in the UK. There is also a plaque in his memory in Peterborough Cathedral.

Trip to Arnhem

So far a meagre six of us have shown any interest in a Branch visit to Arnhem. Is that it?

Williamson Clift Memorial

There has been no further development on the rededication of the re-erected Williamson Clift Memorial. The Memorial has been installed on its supporting base but that base still needs to be smartened up before the rededication can take place. Latest details from Max Sawyer on 01780 765507 or at audsaw@aol.com

Branch Calendar

Do not hang about making a decision on whether or not to take part in our Branch calendar for next year. Several of us have already given John & Beryl Ingham photos of ourselves and details of what we were doing when there was nothing but us standing between the realm and the rampaging hordes of Asiatic barbarians in the 50s and 60s.

Dig out one of those grainy old photos and get it to them – at 57 Rutland Road, Stamford, PE9 1UP - before it is too late. It is not as if we are asking you to take any clothes off !!!!

Poppy Appeal Band Concert – Date Change

The Poppy Appeal Band Concert at Sacrewell Farm will now take place at 7.30pm on Saturday, **8 June**, not 15 June as previously advertised. All other details remain the same: the City of Peterborough Band and Hereward Harmony Singers, Tickets at £12 from Branch Secretary, Sue Arnold on 782200, a glass of wine and buffet supper. All proceeds go the Poppy Appeal.

So far only four of us have accepted the suggestion of going there in the minibus

COMING EVENTS

Wed, 17 April, Barnack Branch visit to Harrier Heritage Centre

Tues, 23 April St George's Sausage & Mash, Ketton

Thurs, 25 April ANZAC Day Commemoration, Broadway Cemetery, Peterboro'

Satt, 15 June Poppy Appeal Band Concert, Sacrewell

27 – 29 July Festival of the Forties, Peterborough

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

1900 hrs, Tuesday, 9 April, Clare Close Community Room

NEXT BRANCH SOCIAL

2000 hrs, Tuesday, 23 April, Sausage & Mash, Ketton Sports Club



Safeguarding the welfare, interests and memory of those who are serving or who have served in H. M. Armed Forces

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Steve Bonde, Editor