



The Royal British Legion Stamford Branch

Formed 7 June 1922

Websites: <http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/stamford>
<http://www.facebook.com/RBLStamford>
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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

President: S.R. Bonde
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Vice Chairman: R. Beresford
Hon. Secretary: P. Savory
Hon. Treasurer: K. Mellowes
Membership Secretary: B. Savory
Poppy Appeal Organiser: J. Jackson
Events Organiser: P. Mash
Welfare Representative: B. Marsden and T. Turner
Branch Honorary Chaplain: The Rev. Canon Dr Donald Gray, CBE, TD

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Newsletter – November 2014

Annual General Meeting

We had another excellent Annual General Meeting this year, held in the new Stamford AFC premises, Borderville Sports Centre, on Ryhall Road. Well over 60 members turned out, plus Tony Goodwin, the County Chairman, and his wife Jan. We also had the pleasure of hosting a team of Royal Engineers from RAF Wittering, led by Col Andrew Honnor; they have just completed a 660 mile cycle ride and have raised £2000 for the Stamford Poppy Appeal. In return, Ray Beresford was pleased to present Col Honnor with a Branch wall plaque in recognition of their achievement and generosity.

Your Committee invited me on 8 October to serve as your Branch President, following the death of Derek Gladman. I paid tribute to my two immediate predecessors as Branch President, both Derek and Bill Simpson, who had set such a high standard in service to both the community and the Branch. I promised to try to maintain their high standards but asked the membership for their help. The Branch remains one of the best in the country for its Poppy Appeal return, its engagement with the Armed Forces, the scale and standard of our Remembrance Parade and Service, and our programme of social activities. But we could do more especially if more of our members could play a more active role. I concluded by asking those present to come forward with their ideas for social events and also to engage with our missing members and to try to persuade them to come to more of our activities.

John Copeland, Branch Chairman, paid tribute to the support by everyone in ensuring that we had had another successful year. He especially mentioned the Poppy Appeal team – Jim and Pauline Rimmington, Mike Nelson and all those who helped to raised over £39,000 in the past year, and also Jim Jackson who has taken over the role of Poppy Appeal Organiser. Membership recruitment and retention remained strong but we have lost a number of valuable members with the passing of Derek Gladman, Bob Cox, Chalky White, Eileen Fay and Joyce Burton.

The welfare workshops on the three military bases continue to do good work in bringing the Legion's services to the Service community and we continue to project the Branch far beyond our borders with the mobile display unit and minibus at the various shows and events in and around the county. We are currently looking to replace the minibus, which is coming to the end of its working life.

It was especially pleasing that there were nominations for most Committee positions which were approved unanimously. Apart from the positions listed above, the other positions are held by:

Social – Paul Mash & Malcolm Biron;

Remembrance, War Memorial & Ceremonial – Jim Fay

Website & Media – Amber Stokes

We now need a volunteer only for liaison with youth groups and schools. Can someone volunteer?

The raffle raised a whopping £109; thanks to everyone who contributed a prize and who bought the tickets and, as always, Roy and Marian for running the show.

Poppy Appeal Report

By the time you get this newsletter the Poppy Appeal is well under way and doing extremely well at the three Supermarkets. Volunteers are working hard and I thank you all for this.

The MDU will be in the High Street on Friday, 7/Saturday, 8 November, when the ATC and the ACF will be street collecting.

The Poppy Appeal Thank you Party is to be held on Wednesday, 3 December from 1930 until 2300 at the Borderville Sports Centre (Stamford AFC). Please tell one and all and give your support. It will be my opportunity to thank everyone for their hard work and determination over the Poppy Appeal.

Jim Jackson

Remembrance Sunday, 9 November

The ex-Services Detachment, Stamford Cadet Units, and a detachments from RAF Wittering will form up at 10.40am in Star Lane to march at 10.50 along Broad Street to the War Memorial. There we shall be joined by the Rev Dr Donald Grey and other Chaplains, the Deputy Lord Lieutenant, the Town Mayor and other dignitaries, and the citizens of Stamford for our annual Service of Remembrance at 11.00am. We ask everyone, Legion members or not and ex-Services or not, to join us in honouring and in remembering those who paid and are still paying the ultimate sacrifice for the freedoms which we enjoy today. Dress: blazers or dark suits, berets or headdress, medals and shiny shoes.

Everyone is of course welcome to join us in the march but we strongly ask that those, who really cannot keep up with the pace, to join the Parade after it arrives at the War Memorial. Our Assembly Marshals will be there to show you where to fall in with full honour. We regret this measure but since we introduced it a few years ago, the standard of our Parade has been much improved - both to the credit of the ex-Service groups and in the honour we accord to the fallen.

Armistice Day, 11 November

We hold our usual ceremony at the War Memorial on Tuesday, 11 November to observe the traditional Two-Minute Silence for Armistice Day. We shall muster at 10.45am and the Rev Canon Donald Gray will again lead us in this most solemn event. Could we please have a good turnout - Dress as for Remembrance Day. As in previous years, we expect several schools to bring their moppets to our ceremony so that they can absorb some of the meaning and understand the importance of Remembrance. They, and their innocence, also add to the poignancy of the ceremony. So do come and join us too on the pavement of the Memorial at about 10.45am.

Branch Christmas Dinner

The Branch Christmas Dinner will take place this year in the Borderville Sports Centre (Stamford AFC) on Friday, 12 December. This year we are reverting to an evening function, starting at 7.30 for 8.00pm. It would be nice therefore if the Branch *glitterati* could again turn out in suitable attire - Gents: black tie, dark suit or blazer (with tie); Ladies: evening dress or pretty dress or trousers. No t-shirts or jeans, please.

We are still negotiating the menu but it is expected to follow traditional lines. Details will be in the next newsletter. Could members and guests with special dietary requirements eg coeliacs, please let us know by mid-November at the latest. The price this year will be £22 a head, which will include port and wine at the table. This compares favourably with the £12.50 we paid in 2001, £15 in 2004, £17 in 2009, and £17.50 last year.

Dinner bookings and menu choices (in due course), please, to Pat Savory (Tel: 755208).

We Will Remember Them

I regret to report the death of two of our members in October. **Peter Dartnell** passed away in Peterborough Hospital on 8 October and **Mike Fox** on 21 October. We had not had the pleasure of seeing either Peter or Mike at our Branch activities as both had been ill for some considerable time. We will nevertheless remember them and we send our deepest sympathies to Megan and Ellie respectively, and their families.

COMING EVENTS

Sat, 1 Nov	Inauguration of Garden of Remembrance
Sun, 2 Nov	County Festival of Remembrance, RAF Cranwell
Sun, 9 Nov	Remembrance Sunday, Parade & Service
Tue, 11 Nov	Armistice Day
Wed, 3 Dec	Poppy Appeal Party
Fri, 12 Dec	Branch Christmas Dinner

Garden of Remembrance, 1 November

We shall inaugurate our Garden of Remembrance this year at the Town War Memorial at 11.00am on Saturday, 1 November. Our Hon. Branch Chaplain, the Rev Canon Dr Donald Grey has very kindly agreed to officiate for us and we expect to be joined by our RAFA, RNA and Royal Lincoln's Standards, the Banners of our Cadet Units, and the Mayor and Town Councillors. Dress as for Remembrance Day.

In brief...

County Chairman

Mr Tony Goodwin, BEM, was the only nomination for the position of County Chairman and he is therefore deemed elected to this position, subject to confirmation by the County Conference in January.

Derrick Marjoram

I have received a sweet note, from Carol, Lorraine and Debs, to thank all our members who attended Derrick's funeral at the Barn Hill Methodist Church on 28 August.

Here are the up to-date totals from the Wings Collections carried out this year, with the help of the Royal British Legion, RAF Wittering and 2071 Sqn ATC:

Morrisons	£2809.31
Sainsbury's	£1344.51
High Street	£821.67
Villages & Home Boxes.	£716.42
Total	£5682.91

Remembrance concert

Rutland Sinfonia will hold a concert, *Remembering the Fallen*, in St Peter's Church, Oundle on Saturday, 22 November. It starts at 7.30pm and will feature Butterworth's *A Shropshire Lad*, Elgar's *Cello Concerto*, and Vaughan Williams' *Symphony No 3*. Tickets can be obtained in advance for £10 (concessions - £8) on 01832 274734 or 01780 752031, or at the door for £12 (concessions £10). RBL members also get a £1 off.



NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

1900 hrs, Wednesday, 8 October, Clare Close Community Room

NEXT BRANCH SOCIAL

2000 hrs, Wednesday, 19 November, - Borderville Sports Centre (*Where's that!*)