



Branch Patron: Air Vice Marshal Peter Dodworth, CB, OBE, AFC, BSc, FRAeS, DL

The Royal British Legion Stamford Branch



Formed 7 June 1922

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

Affiliated with : 2 Squadron (Stamford Detachment), Lincolnshire Army Cadet Force, 2005

: 2071 (Stamford) Squadron, Air Training Corps, 2007

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Poppy Appeal Organiser: J. Jackson
Events Organisers: P. Mash and M. Biron
Welfare Representatives: B. Marsden and T. Turner
Branch Honorary Chaplain: The Rev. Canon Dr Donald Gray, CBE, TD

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Newsletter – January 2015

Poppy Appeal Party

Over 100 of us and guests gathered at the Stamford AFC ground on 3 December to celebrate another successful Poppy Appeal - and a huge success it has been. The evening began with a presentation by the Peterborough 5x5 Challenge of a cheque for £3000 which they raised with a 11km sponsored run on 11 November. This, plus the £37,500, which we have already banked, already exceeds last year's total – with more to come between now and next summer.



Peterborough 5x5 Challenge and their cheque

Honours were Tony Goodwin, Chairman, and his wife Jan. Tony Stamford Branch who, he said, good turn-out at its events. He almost all Lincolnshire Branches had increase in their Poppy Appeal. He everyone for their extra effort and Poppy Appeal brings everyone Legion members and the public. He Legion needs every penny and it is which is what makes a Poppy meaning for us. He again thanked us all.

He then presented our Branch Certificates to those who had excelled in this year's Poppy Appeal – the three supermarkets who allowed us to collect £22328.49 between them, the Peterborough 5x5 Challenge (see above), Keith Langley and Ideal Shopping Direct who collected £617.07, and many, many others. Finally an excellent evening closed with a buffet supper and a raffle, run efficiently as ever by Roy Prentice and Marian Freeman, which raised £131 on the night.

Branch Christmas Tree



We thank Pat Savory, Glen Dellow, and Roy Prentice and Marian Freeman for decorating the Branch Christmas Tree so beautifully this year. This was the usual Branch contribution to the annual Christmas Tree Festival in St John's Church earlier this month. Our theme this year was the Legion's national slogan 'Live On' and was accompanied by copies of the *Soldier's Prayer* and the poem '*In Flanders' Fields*', in tribute to the commemoration of the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War.



Tony Goodwin addresses us.

Jim Jackson, our PAO, gave thanks to all the many people who had contributed to this success – Legion members and non-members who turned out on street corners or in the supermarkets, and the shops who allowed us to use their premises for the Appeal, and especially the RAF and RE personnel and dog handlers who also turned out for us, the Cadets who ensured that no one in the High Street escaped, and all those who worked so hard behind the scenes – Jim and Pauline Rimmington, Alan Patrick, Ron Garfitt, everyone who distributed and collected the boxes, who counted the cash, and who generally gave their support.



Morrisons collect their Certificate recording the £9946.70 we collected in their shop

Our Guests of County complimented always had a reported that seen an thanked said that the together – added that the that need collector; it has



We then enjoyed a talk by Lt Col Andrew Honnor, CO of 20 RE (Air Support) Working Group at RAF Wittering, who spoke of how the Royal Engineers originally created the RAF and how they still provide airfield support for them



Branch Christmas Dinner

There were 63 of us, including guests, WHO sat down to a most enjoyable Christmas Dinner in the Borderville Sports Centre on 12 December. The caterer had not stinted on serving up a lovely buffet, with hot soup and a choice of desserts.

Our Guest of Honour and new Branch Patron, AVM Peter Dodworth and his wife, Kay, joined us for the event. In his address he spoke of his pleasure and



Pat Thomson, Peter & Kay Dodworth, and John Copeland



Maria & Jim Jackson, Shaun Arthur, Mac McArd, and others

honour at being there and praised all the hard work of the Branch throughout the year.

Tony Goodwin, County Chairman, and his wife Jan were also present and, in his speech, he commended the Branch for its mobile display unit, which was helping to raise the profile of the whole Legion in Lincolnshire, not just that of Stamford Branch. He added that the County Poppy Appeal had reached £674,327.19 and was well on track to exceed last year's total.

Our Chairman, John Copeland, spoke of the ethos of the Legion – *'service, not self'* – and encouraged members to come along and help at Branch events. The work of the mobile display unit had helped to recruit some 160 new members throughout the County and our Branch welfare workshops at the three military bases had helped over 200 members of the Armed Forces. He praised the efforts of Branch members for helping to raise over £41,000 in what promises to be a record-breaking Poppy Appeal this year. He also thanked our other Guest of Honour this year, Bill Howard of P.C.Howard for all their support and help towards keeping the Branch minibus on the road. He added we would be looking to replace it in the coming year. Finally he again thanked Roy Prentice and Marian Freeman for all their work on the raffle each month in the past year.

Graham Cooke again donated a painting – of deer in Burleigh Park – which was auctioned for £60. The raffle raised £140 which was given as a gratuity to the caterer.

War Memorial – Battle Plaques

The first eleven of 62 commemorative plaques have been attached to the War Memorial in Broad St. Each plaque commemorates an action from the Great War in which the Lincolnshire Regiment was involved. Further plaques will be fixed on a monthly basis between now and Nov 2018. The intention is then to remove all the plaques to a new WWI memorial in the Town, which will complement, but certainly not replace, the existing War Memorial.



COMING EVENTS

Sat, 17 Jan County Annual Conference, Horncastle

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

1900 hrs, Wednesday, 14 January, Clare Close Community Room

NEXT BRANCH SOCIALS

1930 hrs, Wednesday, 21 January – Borderville Sports Centre (Quiz)

WALK-IN WELFARE WORKSHOPS

RAF Wittering – Tuesday/Wednesday, 13/14 Jan

Kendrew Barracks – Tuesday/Wednesday, 20/21 Jan

St George's Barracks – Thursday, 22 Jan

And finally **A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year** to all my readers.

Steve Bonde, Editor

In brief...

Taking Remembrance to the Schools



Members of the Stamford Royal British Legion once again had the pleasure of visiting Wilds Lodge School. Derek Burton and Steve Bonde went to talk to the KS2 boys on 5 November. The boys were thrilled with the items passed around especially the tanks. It was great to hear the stories from Derek about his time during WW2 D Day events. The School has sent a big thank you to both Steve and Derek also for their magnificent assembly

Air Training Corps

Flt Lt Helen Gibson has been O/C of 2071 (Stamford) Squadron ATC since September 2010 but is now moving on to another Squadron within the S&ME Wing wef 1 January 2015. She sends her thanks to everyone who welcomed her in 2010 and who have helped her since in her work with 2071.

Her successor on 1 January will be Flt Lt Phil Prudham RAFVR(T) who has already been active with 2071 in the last few months. He will take on the unit e-mail address - oc.2071@aircadets.org

Membership Subs

The closing date for renewal of membership subs is 11 January. The options for renewing them remain:

- Posting a cheque and s.a.e to Brian Savory;
- Taking, by prior arrangement, a cheque or cash to his home;
- Giving him cash or cheque in the market each Friday;

His address and telephone details were published in the newsletters for September, October and December. After 11 January people who have not renewed their subs will cease to be Legion members and, if they then wish to rejoin, they will have to sign a direct debit arrangement for the future payment of their subs.

The membership fee is £16.

