



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

Twinned with Isle of Bute Branch, Royal British Legion Scotland, 2009

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Newsletter – June 2015

Mayor's Civic Parade & Service

Last year four Branch members took part in the Mayor's Civic Parade from the Town Hall to the Church. I am sure that the thoughts of all of us were with them as they marched along on our behalf. The turnout of members at this important event has been declining for many years but just four was really bad. Can we not do a bit better this year?

The Civic Parade and Service for Cllr Susan Sandall will be held this year on Sunday, 14 June and will start with a Parade at 10.30am from the Town Hall to All Saints Church. Can we please have a few more Legion members present this year. If you are unable to march, then please join us at the Church at 11.00am. Afterwards the Parade will return to the Town Hall for the march past and salute. Dress code will be blazer, medals, berets, and shiny shoes.

We are invited to join Cllr Sandall afterwards, at about 12.30pm, in the Town Hall for light refreshments.

Branch General Meeting, 17 June

Our Branch General Meeting at the Borderville Stadium on Wednesday, 17 June will feature the singing group, Millstone Grit. They are a male singing group, formed 4 years ago, who live in towns and villages around Stamford and perform an eclectic mix of sea-shanties, folk songs, foreign songs – anything that takes their fancy – mostly a capella, in three or four part harmonies. They don't wear dinner jackets, mostly learn parts "by ear", and they most certainly don't take it all too seriously!

They are giving their services to us free as part of our fundraising for the new Minibus so do come along, bring a friend, pay £3 each at the door, and enjoy a very good evening while helping to pay for the new minibus. It all starts at **7.30pm** (not the usual time of 8.00pm).



Armed Forces Week

There will be a flag-raising ceremony on the Town Hall steps on Monday, 22 June to launch Armed Forces Week in Stamford. Members are asked to assemble at the Town Hall steps at 10.25am. The Very Rev Mark Warrick will open the ceremony with a reading after which the Mayor, Cllr Susan Sandall, will address the parade and ask the community to acknowledge the Armed Forces with applause as the Armed Forces flag is raised. Dress code will be blazer, medals, berets, and shiny shoes.

Farewell to a friend

Grp Capt Damien Alexander has left his post as Station Commander at RAF Wittering. Before he left he wrote to the Branch Chairman a farewell letter in which he commended the close relationship between the base and RBL Stamford branch. The Branch have given Grp Capt Alexander a commemorative plaque.

RAF Wittering Families Day

RAF Wittering will hold their annual Families Day this year on Friday, 24 July. We understand that, with the increased flying activity now at Wittering, there will be a flying display again this year. We do not have any details yet, but this is likely to start about 12.00noon. It is also a good idea to pre-register through Pat Savory (01780 755208) your car (make, registration and colour) and occupants (driver and passenger names) to ensure an easier transit through the gates.

Trooping the Colour



A small group of took the Branch minibus to see the Trooping of the Colour on Horse Guards on Saturday, 30 May. This was the Major General's Review, a full dress rehearsal for the Queen's Birthday Parade, and very impressive it was. Here you see some of us milling around after the parade, searching for the rest of the party.

Especial thanks to Jim Fay for getting us the tickets and to Shaun Arthur and John Copeland who drove us through a very crowded London.

VE Day

Stamford marked the 70th anniversary of VE Day with a ceremony on the Town Hall steps. A large group of Town Councillors, six Branch members, senior representatives from RAF Wittering and Kendrew Barracks observed a Two Minute Silence in memory of those who gave their lives during WWII. Bob Rennard then played the Last Post and Reveille.

Bletchley Park

RBL Stibbington Branch are running a coach trip to Bletchley on Saturday, 6 June. The coach will leave *The Paper Mills* at Wansford at 9.30am and return about 6.00pm.

Tickets cost £26 each and are available from the Branch Secretary, Sue Arnold at 01780 782200.

COMING EVENTS

Sat, 6 June	RBL Stibbington coach trip to Bletchley
Sun, 14 June	Mayor's Civic Parade
Wed, 17 June	' <i>Millstone Grit</i> ', Borderville Sports Centre
Sat, 27 June	Armed Forces Day
Fri, 24 July	RAF Wittering Families Day
Fri, 15 Aug	VJ Day
Sun, 20 Sept	Battle of Britain Service & Parade
Thurs, 3 Dec	Concert by the Band of the Parachute Regiment, Stamford Boys School

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

1900 hrs, Wednesday, 10 June, Clare Close Community Room

NEXT BRANCH SOCIALS

1930 hrs, Wednesday, 17 June – Borderville Sports Centre



WALK-IN WELFARE WORKSHOPS

RAF Wittering – Tuesday/Wednesday, 16/17 June
Kendrew Barracks – Tuesday/Wednesday, 23/24 June
St George's Barracks – Thursday, 25 June

Steve Bonde,
Editor
01780 757041

In brief...

Branch Welfare update

Last month we asked members to let us know if they had helped anyone during the month by, say, taking them to the GP or hospital, or whatever. No one responded.

Can it really be true that not one of us did anything at all during an entire month to help our fellow man (or woman)? Perhaps it is. But, if you did, please let us know. These statistics are needed to enable us to assess where the needs are and what resources we need to deploy.

Welfare Workshops

Last month we invited members to contact Alan Patrick if they would like to join him in demonstrating the Legion's welfare services and give advice on individual welfare problems in the Citizens Advice Bureau office once a week. A member has done so, for which we are very grateful.

Meanwhile Alan has attended a Legion course on getting this project up and running and will be happy to talk to any member about the details and proposals to help in thinking our way forward in setting up this important Branch initiative. You can contact him on 01780 754347.

County Service of Rededication

The Branch had seven members shiny and present at the County Service of Rededication in Sleaford on 10 May. Well done!

Tixover Grange Car Home

Tixover Grange Care Home will hold their Open Day on Friday, 19 June, starting at 10.30am. Join them then for coffee or later for a *Shadows of the Past* musical afternoon from 2.30 to 4.00pm. Tixover always enjoy meeting our members and you will be given a very warm welcome.

They will also host their Summer Fete on Saturday, 18 July, starting at 2.30pm.