



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>  
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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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Membership Secretary: B. Savory  
Poppy Appeal Organiser: J. Jackson  
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## Newsletter – October 2015

### Membership Subscription Fees

It is that time of the year when the Legion will require £17 membership subscription from each of us. We are, for some reason, each being given a new membership number and our new membership cards will be sent to us after payment is received.

Those of us who pay by direct debit are receiving a letter to inform us that Novacroft will collect this sum on 16 October by direct debit payment from our drinking funds (Sorry, accounts!). We do not need to complete a new direct debit mandate, as the current one is being transferred automatically to Novacroft.

The Branch is no longer responsible for collecting subscriptions from cash payers. Cash payers should have received a letter and form asking them to tick their preferred payment method and return it to Novacroft. Preferences will include transferring to direct debit or using a Paypoint etc.

### John Copeland

Many members know that John is seriously ill. He had to go into hospital for a couple of weeks but is now back home. He would very much welcome visits by members but do please ring him beforehand on 07588 487504. You will probably have to make your own cup of tea (and one for John)!

### Festival of Remembrance 2015, RAF Cranwell

The County's annual **Festival of Remembrance** will take place again this year at **Whittle Hall, RAF Cranwell on Sunday, 1 November, starting at 2.30pm**. Please note that Members should not arrive before 1.30pm and that they should be seated by 2.15pm. There is limited wheelchair access. Tickets for this year's event are selling surprisingly slowly. If you have never been, you should because it is always a moving event. Tickets cost just £5 each for a wonderful event. Please contact Pat Savory on 01780 755208.

### Garden of Remembrance

We shall inaugurate our Garden of Remembrance this year at the Town War Memorial at 11.00am on Saturday, 31 October. We expect to be joined by the RAFA and RNA Standards and, we hope, some of the Cadet groups. Unfortunately the traffic and parking prevents a proper march-up to the War Memorial, so everyone is invited to muster on the pavement of the Memorial at about 10.45am. Dress is blazers, berets, medals and shiny shoes.

### Battle of Loos

On 13 October 1915, the Lincolns, Leicesters, Staffords, Nottinghams and Derbyshire Regiments suffered their greatest loss of life in their histories. Over the course of this one day 3763 men died and 7000 were wounded in the fight for the Hohenzollern Redoubt during the Battle of Loos. The battle continued until 4 November.

All communities in East Midlands have been invited to mark the centenary of this disaster with a synchronised service at War Memorials across the region. The format for this service will be a whistle blown at 1.00pm (2.00pm in Loos itself), to mark the start of the offensive, followed by a 2 minute silence. We would like to join in this cross-region commemoration and ask members to assemble at the War Memorial for this brief service. Do please turn out. Blazers, medals, berets and shiny shoes.

### Door to Door Fundraising

Teams are active in Market Deeping and Stamford going round door to door raising funds for the Legion. They are genuine but they should wear distinctive Legion clothing and produce ID when asked.

We raised the question of door to door fundraising with the National Chairman at the Branch Chairmen's Seminar at Donington on 26 September. He acknowledged that there are complaints about the image this practice generates but pointed out that it does raise over £4 million a year for the Legion. He added, moreover, that the collectors are generally welcomed when they call, usually on people who have difficulty getting out or who live in high-rise flats. He added that, nevertheless, the Legion is reviewing this practice and that a Compliance Officer will be appointed soon. He asked us to report any complaints so that they can be followed up.

## Volunteers wanted

I know it is a dirty word and that it is Canon Law N<sup>o</sup> 1 in the Services never to volunteer, but we need you now to volunteer. We have been manning our welfare workshops at our local military bases and at 1940s and other weekends for over 6 years – largely with the same team. Several of the original team have died or are now no longer able to contribute. Even later recruits are getting on. We, and the Outreach team in the CAB, need new, younger blood – members we can rely on to be able to man the workshops. Do please volunteer. You will soon pick up the necessary expertise. It is dead easy and includes a lot of good fun and banter with the Services. You also get invited to Service activities on the bases.

We also need drivers for the Branch minibus. Those of us who are over 70 have our driving licences clipped so that we can no longer drive a minibus. John Copeland, Shaun Arthur, and Keith Mellowes have shouldered the task of driving our minibus in recent years, but it is likely that this will soon fall to Shauna alone. Again, if you are under 70 with a clean licence, please volunteer.

## LAUNCH OF THE COUNTY POPPY APPEAL

The County will again launch its Poppy Appeal at the Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre, East Kirkby, on **Saturday 24 October, starting at 1200**. We are asked to be seated by 11.45. The official launch of the Lincolnshire County Poppy Appeal 2015 will be performed by the Bishop of Lincoln, the Rt Revd Christopher Lowson, and will also feature performances by the Coningsby Military Wives Choir. The Mareham Le Fen Silver Band will provide music.

Subject to weather, the Lancaster bomber, *Just Jane*, will taxi out and there will be a raffle for seats on the aircraft with all proceeds going to the Poppy Appeal. There is also now an ever growing number of displays of many aspects of WWII. Admission is free and refreshments and snacks will be available in the NAAFI.

This is one of the best, if not indeed the best Poppy Appeal Launch in the country and is thoroughly recommended for both a moving and entertaining day out. Dress is blazers, berets, medals and shiny shoes.

## COMING EVENTS

Tues, 13 Oct	Battle of Loos Remembrance Service, Town War Memorial
Wed, 21 Oct	Branch Annual General Meeting, Borderville Sports Centre
Sat, 24 Oct	County Poppy Appeal Launch, East Kirkby
26 Oct to 7 Nov	Poppy Appeal
Sat, 31 Oct	Inauguration of the Garden of Remembrance, War Memorial
Sun, 1 Nov	County Festival of Remembrance, RAF Cranwell
Sun, 8 Nov	Remembrance Parade & Service, Broad Street
Wed, 11 Nov	Armistice Day, War Memorial
Wed, 9 Dec	Branch Christmas Dinner, Crown Hotel

## NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

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

## NEXT BRANCH SOCIALS

2000 hrs, Wednesday, 21 October, Borderville Sports Centre (**The AGM!**)



## WELFARE WORKSHOPS

RAF Wittering – Tuesday/Wednesday, 20/21 October  
Kendrew Barracks – Tuesday/Wednesday, 27/28 October  
St George's Barracks – Thursday, 29 October

**Steve Bonde, Editor, 01780 757041**

## In brief...

### **Battle of Britain Service & Parade**

Thanks to everyone who turned out to support this year's Battle of Britain Service and Parade on 20 September. There was also a good turn out of former RAFA members which, with the glorious weather, made for a very successful occasion.

### **AGM**

I shall bring three 1 litre bottles of Bells whisky to auction at the AGM. These bottles were bequeathed to us by Ray Banning when he died two months ago. Ray served as a 'tail-end Charlie' in Bomber Command and, although he was always a member of the RAFA rather than the Legion, he left them to us to raise funds for our welfare work. So do bring a few extra tenners with you on 21 October.

### **Poppy Appeal**

The final figure for our Poppy Appeal 2014/5 is a magnificent £42,578.98. This represents almost 1% of the national total (£45 million), and almost 5% of the County total of £870,000. Stamford, as ever, is one of the most generous towns in the country and only Lincoln raised more than us in Lincolnshire. Well done to all our collectors and, especially, the people of Stamford.

We shall celebrate this achievement and thank all our collectors with a Poppy Appeal Party on 2 December. More details later.

### **Branch Christmas Dinner**

This year's Christmas Dinner will be at the Crown Hotel on Wednesday, 9 December, starting at 7.30 for 8.00pm. Sample menus offering 2 or 3 courses at £18.85 or £22.95 each will be available at the AGM or can be obtained by calling Jim or Pauline Rimmington on 01780 239658. Bookings, with a deposit of £10 or £12, will be required by 30 October.