



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

President: S.R. Bonde
Chairman: R. Beresford
Vice Chairman: S. Arthur
Hon. Secretary: P. Savory
Hon. Treasurer: K. Mellowes
Membership Secretary: B. Savory
Poppy Appeal Organiser: J. Jackson
Events Organisers: M. Biron
Welfare Representatives: B. Marsden
Branch Honorary Chaplain: The Rev. Canon Dr Donald Gray, CBE, TD

Legion Contact Centre: 0808 8028080

Editor: Steve Bonde
31 Clare Close, Stamford, PE9 2QA
Tel: 01780 757041
e-mail: srbonde@hotmail.com

Distribution: Marian Freeman &
Roy Prentice

Kindly printed by Wilds Lodge School

Newsletter – November 2015

Annual General Meeting

A good turnout of over 40 members ensured that we had another excellent Annual General Meeting on 21 October. We also had the pleasure of the company of Tony Goodwin, the County Chairman, and his wife Jan and, after the formal proceedings, good old 1960s vintage pop music by the group *Beats Working*. This was only their fourth gig but they had us rocking – they are a great discovery.

The occasion was of course overshadowed by the illness of our Chairman, John Copeland, but Ray Beresford ably chaired the meeting in his absence. He did however invite me, as Branch President, to present a joint President/Chairman's report on the state of the Branch.

The Branch had had another busy and successful year. We had enjoyed entertainment by *Millstone Grit* and *Beats Working*, a couple of good talks, and a quiz, our welfare workshops at the military bases go from strength to strength, and we are now manning a similar Drop-In Centre in the High Street. Our standing with the Town Hall has never been better. The Poppy Appeal for 2014/5 was again a record and second only to that of Lincoln in the county. I paid tribute to everyone who had worked hard to achieve these successes, not least those labour away quietly in the background – Brian & Pat Savory, Roy & Marian, Mac McARD, Shaun Arthur, Alan Patrick, Ivan Graham, Gordon Williams, Amber Stokes and many more.

It was good that there were nominations for all Committee positions which were approved unanimously. Apart from the positions listed at the head of this newsletter, the other positions are held by: Remembrance, War Memorial & Ceremonial – Jim Fay; Youth & Schools - Clive Green; and Amber Stokes will continue to maintain our excellent Website.

We have much to do in the coming year. A number of anniversaries will come, not least the centenary of the Somme offensive. We plan to commemorate that with a special Festival of Remembrance in the Stamford Exchange Theatre on 1 July next year.

The raffle raised a useful £68, thanks to everyone who contributed a prize and who bought the tickets and, as always, Roy and Marian for running the show.

Poppy Appeal Party

Our Poppy Appeal Party this year will take place at the Borderville Sports Centre on Wednesday, 2 December, starting at 8.00pm sharp. As always we shall present all our star Poppy collectors with Branch Certificates attesting their prowess, but we shall also be presenting Long Service Awards to our longer-term collectors. If you have been a collector for 5, 10, 15, 20 or even 30 years and have not received the appropriate award, please let us know. Otherwise see you there for the ceremony.

Peterborough 5X5

Last year Peterborough 5X5 Challenge raised a magnificent £3000 plus for our Poppy Appeal. They intend to do the same, if not better, again this year with 3km and 11km races starting at Fineshade Wood, Top Lodge at 11.00am on Sunday, 8 November. Most of us will of course be at our Remembrance Parade & Service in Stamford at that time, but if anyone would like to cheer on the runners they will be very much welcomed.

Late News: John Copeland

I regret to report that our Chairman, John Copeland, passed away peacefully at 1.00 am on 29 October. This has to be a welcome release from the pain and suffering he has undergone in the past few weeks. I shall inform you of the funeral arrangements as soon as we know them.

Legion d'Honneur



Congratulations to our member, Derek Burton, who has at last received the Legion d'Honneur. The French Government has made this award to all surviving servicemen who took part in D Day and the Invasion of Europe in 1944. We hope to be able to arrange a proper, formal presentation with suitable pomp and ceremony in the near future.

Remembrance Sunday, 8 November

The ex-Services Detachment, Stamford Cadet Units, and detachments from RAF Wittering and Kendrew will form up at 10.30am 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, 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.

Garden of Remembrance, 31 October

We shall inaugurate our Garden of Remembrance this year at the Town War Memorial at 11.00am on Saturday, 31 October. 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.

Armistice Day, 11 November

We hold our usual ceremony at the War Memorial on Wednesday, 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.

COMING EVENTS

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 26 Oct to 7 Nov | Poppy Appeal |
| Sat, 31 Oct | Inauguration of the Garden of Remembrance |
| Sun, 1 Nov | County Festival of Remembrance RAF Cranwell |
| Sun, 8 Nov | Remembrance Parade & Service |
| Wed, 11 Nov | Armistice Day, War Memorial |
| Wed, 2 Dec | Poppy Appeal Party & Awards, Borderville Sports Centre |
| Thurs, 3 Dec | Band of the Parachute Regiment, Stamford School |
| Wed, 9 Dec | Branch Christmas Dinner, Crown Hotel |

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

1900 hrs, Wednesday, 11 November, Clare Close Community Room

NEXT BRANCH SOCIALS

2000 hrs, Wednesday, 18 November, Borderville Sports Centre



WELFARE WORKSHOPS

RAF Wittering - Tuesday/Wednesday, 17/18 November
Kendrew Barracks - Tuesday/Wednesday, 26/27 November
St George's Barracks - Thursday, 28 November

Steve Bonde, Editor, 01780 757041

In brief...

Volunteers wanted

I know it is a dirty word and that it is Canon Law N^o. 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. They and 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. John Copeland, Shaun Arthur, and Keith Mellows 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, as required by our insurance, with a clean licence, please volunteer.

Joyce Burton Trophy



Congratulations too to young Georgina Tomlinson of Malcolm Sargent Primary School. Georgina's entry of a poster for the 70th anniversary of VJ Day is the winner of our annual Joyce Burton Trophy. Well done, young lady.

We will remember them

I very much regret to have to report the deaths of David Collins and Grace Scriven.

David was a colourful character who took it upon himself to maintain the paintwork on the gates to the War Memorial to a very high standard. Sadly, he never fully recovered from the death of his late wife and eventually passed away himself on 13 October.

Grace was of course the widow of Peter Scriven who died almost two years ago. Like Peter she was a big fan of jazz and a supporter of the work of the Legion. She died suddenly on 16 October.