



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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Branch Honorary Chaplain: The Rev. Canon Dr Donald Gray, CBE, TD

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Newsletter –February 2016

Branch Governance

Until 2006 the Branch Committee used to meet each month and then a General Meeting of Members would also meet formally each month to consider the same issues and agree what action, if any, to take. Such business began to take up the entire evenings of the General Meetings and it was agreed that it would be much more efficient, and free up the General Meetings for more social activities, if the routine, humdrum business were all dealt with just in Committee. Any business of special interest or essential importance or involving major expenditure would be referred to General Meeting for formal consideration and decision. Members would also always have the right to hold the Committee to account at any monthly or Extraordinary General Meeting and, of course, we hold our Annual General Meeting each October.

It was important however also to maintain full openness and democracy in handling Branch business in Committee. Minutes of such meetings are therefore available to any Member on request and this newsletter also reports fully on the various issues under consideration. More importantly all Branch Members were not merely welcome but encouraged to attend and take an active part in Committee discussions. We wanted Members to take a positive interest in and to contribute actively to Branch affairs.

Recently Committee Meetings have become rather drawn out and, in order to speed them up, it has been decided to restrict those meetings to Committee Members only, and any other members invited for a specific purpose. The proceedings of the Committee will, as now, be minuted and in future copies of those minutes will be distributed at the next General Meeting for formal study and discussion and, if appropriate, decision. Of course if any member wishes to continue to attend and take part in Committee Meetings themselves, they are very welcome to stand for election to that Committee.

An Experience Shared

On 22 October Darren Rawnsley recently went to the Fridham/Fensom Care home, where he chatted with them about the RBL and his experiences in the RAF, but also shared their experiences. He says that "it was amazing to say the least. There were nine residents in the sitting room with an average age of about 87 years. The tales they had to tell were fascinating with some sad, but also funny memories. Two hours passed in the blink of an eye and I learnt a great deal about the bombings in WW2, battles in the desert, France, life with rations and the fun Peter had in the Home Guard as a boy, before joining the army. Peter's dad was in WW1 and I was lucky enough to get a glimpse into his life in the trenches. I wish to thank the residents for their time and the memories they shared. All of the residents were proud to be a part of the history and also proud of today's forces personnel."



Darren with Peter and Graham

Freedom Trail

Each year the Legion organises a party for the 4-day trek over the Freedom Trail. This trail (le Chemin de Liberté) follows one of the toughest WWII escape routes from Nazi-occupied France into Spain, passing memorials to the fallen along the way.



The trek is highly demanding, passing through spectacular scenery on remote trails, reaching approx 2500m before the descent into Spain. It is achievable – a member of our Branch did the trek some 7 or 8 years ago. Because of the strong military links of the Trail, the Legion especially wants to attract more Legion members to take part.

The Legion will fly out to on 19 September and the registration fee is £199, covering flights and accommodation. A major part of the trek of course is gathering sponsorships to raise funds for the Legion's welfare work. If any member would like to take part, please contact Pat Savory on 755208.

Coming Events

The programme for our next three General Meeting will, after considering the Committee minutes, be:

17 February – A talk by Brian Marsden, Head of the Stamford Welfare Team, and Alan Patrick who runs our weekly Drop-In Information Centre in the High Street. They will set out for us the wide range of welfare services which the Legion has to offer to the Service community – serving and ex-service personnel and their dependents.

16 March – A talk by Dr Peter King, a former RAF Wing Commander and then Chief Radiologist at Pilgrim Hospital, Boston. He will talk about his experiences as a medical doctor in the RAF, especially during his time in Cyprus.

23 April – Our traditional celebration of St George's Day with a Sausage & Mash lunch, probably at the Ketton Sports Club.

COMING EVENTS

Wed, 17 Feb Branch General Meeting – *Talk on Legion welfare.*

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

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

NEXT BRANCH SOCIALS

2000 hrs, Wednesday, 17 February – Talk on *Integrity Wills and legal services.*

WELFARE WORKSHOPS

RAF Wittering – Tuesday/Wednesday, 16/17 February

Kendrew Barracks – Tuesday/Wednesday, 23/24 February

St George's Barracks – Thursday, 25 February

Steve Bonde, Editor, 01780 757041



In brief...



Legion Recognition

The Legion has a number of awards it can make to members in recognition of service above and beyond ... These extend from a Branch Certificate of Recognition, which several of our Branch members have received, to County Certificates of Recognition, a Legion Gold Badge and finally to Life Membership.

The Legion is keen to ensure that members who do make that special contribution or effort do not go unrecognised, and we invite our members to suggest to us the name of anyone they believe should be recognised for their efforts for the Legion. The Branch and County Certificates are of course open to anyone, Legion member or not.



Visit to the Vulcan

We are considering a Branch day out to visit the Vulcan at Robin Hood Airport, Finningley. This will be a simple trot up the A1 in the new Branch minibus and, early research suggest, entry to the exhibit is £6.50 for those us aged 65 and over. If anyone is interested, could they please let Pat Savory (755208) know.



Conference Delegate

The Branch General Meeting on 20 January appointed Shaun Arthur to be the Branch Delegate at this year's National Annual Conference in Eastbourne in May.



Branch General Meeting

30 or so members turned out on cold evening to hear our guest speaker, Eric Brict, give a fascinating talk on wills, probate, how to protect your life savings from the care homer, and generally how to keep your cash in the family. Mr Brict, from the consultancy company *Integrity Wills & Legal Services* was asked afterwards for a number of appointments.