



The Royal British Legion Stamford Branch

90th Anniversary Year - 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

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Welfare Committee Chairman: H. McNeill
Branch Honorary Chaplain: The Rev. Canon Dr Donald Gray, CBE, TD

Editors: Brian and Pat Savory
17 Hanover Court Stamford, PE9 1QA
Tel: 01780 755208
(e-mail: brianoutreachuk@talktalk.net)

Distribution: Marian Freeman &
Roy Prentice

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Newsletter – OCTOBER 2012

Quiz Night, 18 September



Only 30 to 40 members turned out for the interesting quiz which Steve Bonde had prepared, including the picture round which, as usual, shows that we walk around our town with our eyes closed! The winning team was 'His'n'Hers' who received the prize of a tin of chocolates, kindly donated by Bill Turner. A wooden spoon was given to the losers and £69 was raised by the raffle. Our thanks to Roy



One reason why Team Greyhound did not win!

and Marion who organize the raffles at all our social events.

It was a shame that more members did not support this social evening as a lot of preparation goes into these events and it is very discouraging for the organiser. It is difficult to know what kind of social event would tempt more people out

Discover Volunteering's Sponsored 5 Mile Charity Walk

Stamford Branch's Darren Rawnsley, Amber Stokes and Bill Turner attended Discover Volunteering's first annual charity event on the 16th September. This excellent event pulled in 14 local charities and businesses from Lincolnshire, Peterborough and Rutland, including Exotic Pet Refuge, Grantham Rotary Club, Scouts, Women's Aid, Oxfam, Teenzone, Action on Hearing Loss, YMCA, Park Air Systems, Sense, Brownies and Not all Bad, raising funds for their charities and projects.

The sponsored walk started from Discover Volunteering's base at Eventus in Market Deeping, and, Amber writes, 'we followed our maps through the industrial estate, onto the streets of Market Deeping and back again through fields. We finished back at Eventus and were welcomed with a delicious spread of food put on especially by the Oasis café.

The walk also involved a brilliant quiz, which required us all to be ultra-observant, looking out for the answers around us on the walk. The quiz also included some general knowledge 'walker-based' questions at the end. And WE won it of course – an added bonus! The day was rounded off with a fantastic raffle, with prizes donated by local businesses based at Eventus.

A big thank you to all of our sponsors, who helped us collect over £200 for the Branch!

Read about how Discover Volunteering received national coverage in the [Daily Express](#) and then on the [Health Lottery on Channel 5](#) – we're lucky to have them supporting us and we could see some really interesting things from them over the next year. [For more photos check out our website!](#)



John Copeland (Chairman)

Members will be sorry to hear that John has recently undergone major surgery and is still (at time of press) in Peterborough City Hospital. I'm sure you will join me in sending him our best wishes and hopes for a speedy recovery.



Branch Annual General Meeting, 16 October

An appeal to all our members to turn out for our Annual General Meeting which is taking place at the Cummins Club on Tuesday, 16 October at 8.00pm sharp. The sheets for nominations and the proposed motions for County Conference are displayed on the notice board in Cummins Club. The system introduced two years ago, where

members are nominated for a specific role, eg 'Events & Social member', is working well with a more clear sharing of the workload. We shall continue this practice. By coming to the AGM you will have your opportunity to let the committee know what events you would like to see them organise, as this past year the turn out for social events has been very poor.

A number of Committee vacancies are likely to arise – Poppy Appeal Organiser, Events & Social member, Welfare Chairman, etc. Remember you must have the agreement of whomever you wish to nominate. Please do not ring me with 'What about so-and-so for.... We will be unable to function as a branch without the required committee so, no committee – no Branch!

In particular, readers of previous newsletters will be aware that Jim Rimmington would love to hand over the job of Poppy Appeal Organiser, having carried out this role for the last 5 years. He will be available to help and advise until his successor is confident in the role. Please do not wait until this year is over as it will be valuable to shadow Jim this year. The Poppy Appeal is our major fund raising event for the RBL and last year we raised an amazing £40,000. There must be someone out there who will take over, even two people jointly if you would prefer it. Please ring the Secretary on 01780 755208, or talk it over with Jim.

Poppy Appeal 2012

This year we are collecting in three supermarkets; Morrisons, Sainsburys and Waitrose, over a period of 2 weeks prior to Remembrance Day, starting on Mon 29th October and finishing November 10th. The door to door collections begin on 27th October. The MDU and collectors will be in the High Street on the 9th and 10th November.

All this will require more volunteers than ever before to man the stands. If you normally volunteer and are not contacted by one of the organizers, please remind them that you are available. If you have not volunteered previously then please offer to take a two hour slot at the supermarket of your choice on one or more days if possible. The Branch has over 260 members so if we all pull our weight we should be able to cover everything that is needed. This is our main event each year. Last year we raised £40,000 in Stamford thanks to all of you who gave your time. For all offers of time please contact Alan Patrick on 01780754357, or Jim Rimmington on 01780 767343.

Poppy Appeal Party



The Poppy Appeal Party will be held on 1st December, at Cummins Club. The Mayor will present the certificates, to those individuals and businesses who have helped to make the Appeal such a success. All members are welcome to come along.

Launch of the County Poppy Appeal

The County will again launch its Poppy Appeal at the Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre, East Kirkby, on **Saturday, 27 October starting at 1200**. We are asked to be seated by 11.45. The launch will be performed by The Headquarters Royal Logistic Corps Territorial Army from the Price William of Gloucester Barracks, Grantham.

Admission is free and refreshments and snacks will be available in the NAAFI. There is also now an ever growing number of displays of many aspects of WWII. 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.

Christmas Dinner, 14th December.

As on the previous two years, our Christmas dinner is to be held at St George's Barracks. More details will be available in the next newsletter.

In brief...

The Band of HM Royal Marines

The St Neots Royal Naval Association are hosting a band concert by the Band of HM Royal Marines, HMS Collingwood at the Priory Centre, Priory Lane, St Neots on Saturday, 20 October. Doors open at 6.15 for 7.00pm. Tickets cost £15 and are available from Keith Ridley (01480 810848 or 07967 128910) or Tom Mumford (01480 473934) or at RNAStneots@googlemail.com.

All profits go the Poppy Appeal

Oakham Jubilee Concert

Oakham Branch of the RBL invite you and your friends to a Diamond Jubilee Celebration Concert to be held on Friday 12th October at 7.30pm, featuring the Band of the Parachute Regiment and the Minden Band of the Queen's Division at the Oakham School Chapel. Tickets are £15 each from Oakham School Box Office (01572 758820) from 1st September or contact Alan Moutrey on 01572 723663 or email

alanmoutrey@oakham.uk.com

School Vouchers

Morrisons are giving out *Let's Grow Vouchers* when you check out your shopping. Like the rest of us, you have probably refused them since your dealings with anklebiters and schools are thankfully long over. Well, don't! Would you like to collect them for Steve Bonde so that we can present a very large bundle of them to the schools of our choice. Morrisons will issue these vouchers until 28 October.

Nominate the Legion

Sainsbury's have introduced a leaflet which invites their customers to nominate a local charity which Sainsbury's should support. They claim to have given over £4million in this way to thousands of charities across the UK.

This Branch is a local charity, so even if you are a life long Morrison's supporter, do pop into Sainsbury's and nominate us.

Parcels for the Troops

At the recent committee meeting it was decided that the Parcels for the Troops had been very well received and well supported by the folk of Stamford. However we feel that there would not be the same support if another appeal for goods was launched. However, there is a sum of £384 in the branch accounts which was specifically donated for this cause. We will therefore have one last packing and posting, in the early New Year and Brian Savory has offered to co-ordinate this, and goods will be purchased with the outstanding money.

Joyce Burton Trophy/School Design a Medal for the Jubilee Competition

When we were considering the prizes for the winning school and individual entries, Joyce very generously donated a trophy to be awarded to the winning school. We plan this to be the first of an annual competition, with the trophy being awarded each year to the winning school. This year three winning entrants will each receive a prize of a Jubilee Medal, a Poppy Pin, and a framed Winner's certificate from the Branch.

The trophy is beautiful and has been obtained through the good offices of the Royal Artillery. The presentations will be on the 5th of October at St Gilbert's and Malcolm Sargent Schools. We are still awaiting a date for the presentation at Stamford Junior School.

We hope to have pictures in your next newsletter. This is part of our drive to inform children of the purpose and work of the Legion, and maintain their interest in our past.

Membership Subscription Fees

Our membership subs are due for renewal on 1 October. The national rate has gone up this year to £13, so with our local addition of £1, your total fee for the coming year will be £14. – an absolute bargain for membership of the best Branch in the country! Some Branches levy £20 or even more from their members.

Those of you who pay by direct debit need do nothing. You should already have received your new card through the post and the Legion will quietly raid your bank drinking account for £14 in the first week of October. If you do not receive your membership card by then, please let me know and I shall raise a fuss with the Membership Department.

92 of us still pay by cash. I have received your cards and will be available in the Cummins Club at the AGM on 16 October and during the Poppy Appeal party on 1 December to receive your £14 cash in return for your card. Could I implore that you do not all come at me waving a £20 note. Could at least some of you have the correct money, please?

May I emphasise that **the onus is on all you cash payers to renew your membership**, not on me to chase after you. If you cannot get to either of those meetings, you can send your remittance (£14 cheque 'Royal British Legion' with your name and membership number and SAE (C6 or DL) for the return of your new card) direct to me at 31 Clare Close, Stamford, PE9 2QA.. My telephone, if you need counselling, is 01780 757041.

Each year we appeal to you cash payers to transfer to direct debit. This costs no more than paying by cash and does make it so much easier, not only for us but clearly also for you, to renew your membership each year. As a concession therefore, I am prepared to come to you to collect your cash this year on condition that you sign up for direct debit. Let me know – 01780 757041.

104 of us (both cash and direct debit payers) have not yet signed the Gift Aid declaration. You really should do so – it is on the form to which your card is attached.. It costs you nothing but a tick in a box and a signature. But it enables us to claw back £3.50 from Boy George from the tax you have paid him for your £14 subscription – potentially an extra £364 from this Branch alone! It costs you nothing and he's got plenty; he'll only waste it on MPs' expenses or some other daft scheme. Please return the **signed** Gift Aid chitties to me. If you are not sure whether or not you have already signed, give me a ring – 01780 757041 . *Steve Bonde*
Membership Secretary

COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

It appears that the CWGC are starting to obtain permission to signpost sites that contain graves under their care. So far, they have received permission for 130 signs, with 150 already in place. They hope to be able to erect 3,000 signs across the UK, although this will barely scratch the 12,300 sites in Britain containing 300,000 commemorations.



Holme 1940s Weekend 2012, 6/7 October.

The MDU will take part in the 1940s Weekend at Holme, near St Neots. Volunteers will be needed to help man the MDU on both days. There will probably be the usual attractions – the Wehrmacht re-enactors duffing up the British Army re-enactors (every one a red beret major or higher)

Our Golf playing members may wish to know that the RBL Melton Branch are holding their annual golf match at Melton Mowbray Golf Club on Friday, 19 October. This tournament will be a Better Ball Stableford (Pairs or Fours) with handicap limits for Gents at 28 and Ladies at 36. Tee off starts at 09.00 hours and the entry charge is £15 per person. There is a lesser charge for Melton Mowbray Golf Club members. For further information please contact Melton Golf Club on 01664-562118 or Peter Roffey on 01664-567278.

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF EL ALAMEIN TO BE COMMEMORATED



The courage and contribution of those who fought bravely in the Battle of El Alamein will be formally marked by the Ministry of Defence with a special Service of Thanksgiving, held in Westminster Abbey at 3pm on Saturday, 27 October 2012. The Reverend Jonathan Woodhouse, QHC Chaplain-General (Army), will give the address at the Evensong service.

Winston Churchill famously described the battle, which began on 23 October 1942 and ended on 4 November 1942, as the end of the beginning of the war. Led by General Montgomery, the Battle of El Alamein was the climax of months of struggle in the Western Desert as the Allies fought to keep open vital supply lines from the Mediterranean to the East. Minister for Defence, Personnel, Welfare and Veterans, Andrew Robathan said: The Battle of El Alamein was hugely significant as it was the first time the British gained the upper hand over the German Army. "The end of the beginning". We should honour the survivors of the Battle and commemorate all those who took part. El Alamein turned the tide in the Western Desert – and arguably of the war."

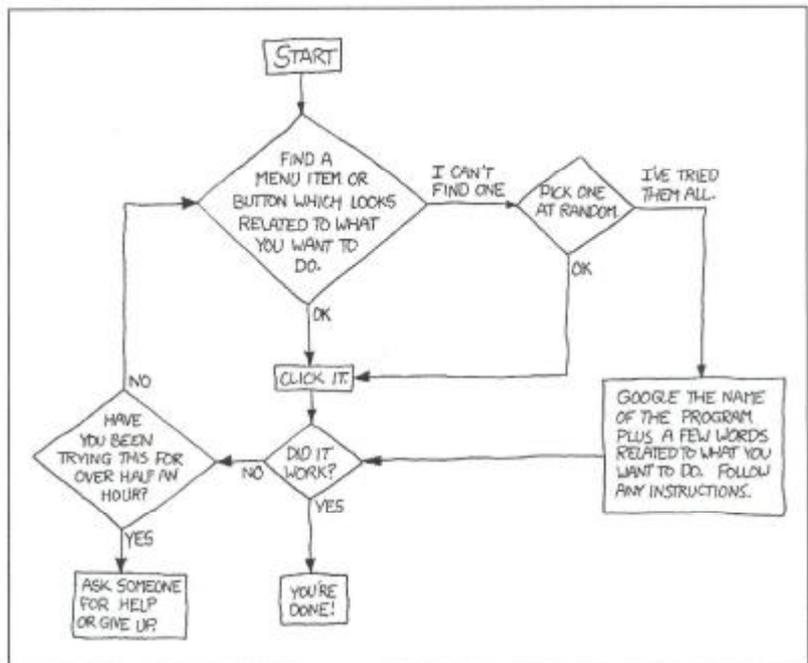
Those wishing to attend are asked to apply by email to tracey.broome576@mod.uk or by telephone 0207 807 0970. Tickets will be posted by 19 October.

The Lincoln Bomber Command Memorial (LBCM)

Anyone interested in this might like to visit the [website: memories@lincsbombercommandmemorial.com](http://memories@lincsbombercommandmemorial.com) where they will now find a Fact File which the Trust will continually update to include many of the lesser known facts about the Command, the planes in which they flew, individual acts of heroism and details about the RAF stations that played host to the Command. We would be delighted to include any of your key facts which you can send to us via the site, marked Fact File. The LBCM web site now boasts an on-line Media Centre where a wide range of resources are available for use by media who have registered for a password. With archive footage, stories, photos and links to a number of relevant sites the Centre provides all the tools needed to cover this exciting project LBCM. Last month we launched the "Your Memories" section of the web site and we are extremely pleased that some of you have already submitted your stories. For those of you who do have memories of the Command we would welcome your participation

Be your own Geek

Ever wished you could sort out your computer yourself when it goes on the blink, or just ignores you completely? Want to avoid those pitying looks you get when you appeal to your grandchildren to sort it out for you? Here's how: Please print this flow chart out and tape it near your screen. Congratulations! You are now a geek! Can't print it out? – ask one of your grandchildren!



Race Night at Holbeach St Marks

Members are invited to join in this event on the 6th October. Cost is £5 inclusive of a Sausage and Mash with Pud supper! Details and tickets from 01775 760252

COMING EVENTS

- Oct 6th/7th Holme 40's weekend
- October 16th Annual General Meeting
- 27th October County Poppy Appeal Launch, Kirkby.
- Nov 2nd Poppy Appeal Band Concert
- Nov 2/3rd Overnight Vigil
- Nov 3rd Inauguration of Garden of Remembrance
- Nov 4th County Festival of Remembrance, Cranwell.
- Nov 11th Remembrance Service at War Memorial
- Dec 1st Poppy Appeal Party
- Dec 14th Christmas Dinner, Royal Artillery.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

1900 hrs, Tuesday, 9th October, Clare Close Community Room

NEXT BRANCH GENERAL SOCIAL

20.00 hrs Tuesday, 16th October, AGM, Cummins Club.

Market Stall

Some of you will remember that we have had a stall on Stamford Market in the past, but not for awhile now. We are intending to have a stall in the New Year – Jan or Feb – so are asking you to start to look out and save any bric a brac in good condition. Only good condition books ect. Please hang onto it for now as we don't have anywhere to store it in our flat.

Brian

Best Wishes to our members,
Brian and Pat.

