



# THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

## Stamford Branch

Formed 7 June 1922

[www.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/stamford](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/stamford)  
[stamford.secretary@rbl.community](mailto:stamford.secretary@rbl.community)



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION  
Registered charity number: 219279

## Branch Newsletter – April 2026

Welcome to the April edition of the Stamford RBL newsletter. Our last newsletter was in February, and I hope you found it an enjoyable read.

We welcome the many new members who have joined the branch recently, bringing our membership total to 202. We sincerely hope you will enjoy your time with us and enjoy being involved in our activities. Membership of an organisation is not just paying your subscription; it's about meeting friends and sharing experiences. The RBL is a unique organisation as almost all of the membership have a unique bond, and it would be great to see more of the 202 members at our social evenings and supporting our events and activities throughout the year.

### Sausage & Mash

We were thrilled to see a good turnout at what has become an annual event. The St Georges Day Sausage and Mash event was again held at The Danish Invader on Friday 17 April.

This year we were thrilled to secure the services of Ellie James, who provided the background singing during the meal and afterwards. For those who missed her, Ellis will be performing at the Armed Forces Day event on 28 June.

Our grateful thanks go to the Danish Invader team, who again provided a hearty meal.

It was great to see a good turn out at what has become a regular branch event. If you missed out, there is always next year!



## Thank you to Cllr Amanda Wheeler and Mark Murtagh

There were two VIP guests at this years Sausage & Mash night; Cllr Amanda Wheeler, the current Stamford Town Mayor and Mark Murtagh who retired recently from the Town Council as the Mayors Clark.

The branch wished to thank both for their support of our activities and issued a certificate of appreciation with the below citation. We also presented Cllr Wheeler with a poppy brooch and Mark with an engraved pen.

### **Cllr Amanda Wheeler**

*You are awarded this certificate by Stamford Royal British Legion in recognition of your unwavering support to the Royal British Legion and the local poppy appeal during your Mayoral year of 2025 to 2026.*

### **Mark Murtagh**

*You are awarded this certificate by the Stamford branch of The Royal British Legion in recognition of your support to The Royal British Legion, the local poppy appeal and civic remembrance events during the 17 years employed as Stamford's Mayors Officer.*



## Operation Telic

Operation Telic was the codename under which all of the United Kingdom's military operations in Iraq were conducted between the start of the invasion of Iraq on 19 March 2003 and the withdrawal of the last remaining British forces on 22 May 2011.

On **22 May** Stamford RBL will be holding a 15-year commemoration at the Stamford War Memorial, **held at midday** (to co-inside with a National commemoration at the National Arboretum).

We hope you can join us at this event and then for light refreshments afterwards at Stamford Corn Exchange Lounge Bar.

## We Need Your help.

The Branch committee are looking to appoint into two key positions which will help move the branch forward and meet with our 3-year plan.

We are looking for a volunteer to manage our social media site (Facebook) and hopefully expand us to X and Instagram and also maintain the branch website.

We are also looking for a Youth volunteer to be the link between local youth groups (not just forces) and the RBL.

If interested, please let the branch secretary know.



## Next Branch Social

The next branch social evening is on **Monday 18 May** starting at 7.30pm and will be a Race Night.

A popular branch social activity with horse, dog and pig racing!

Each bet costs 20p so bring your change with you!

## Stamford School Band Concert

We were grateful to be invited to the 'free' Stamford School band concert on Thursday evening which included the band of The Royal Air Force College performing with some of the Stamford School pupils. A great evening of music and honour and we thank the school for their invitation.

The evening saw the following performed: Spitfire Prelude & Fugue, 633 Squadron, The Watermill, Diogenes, Standard of St George, Those Magnificent Airmen in their Flying Machines, Tico-tico, A Glen Miller tribute, Band of Brother, Last Post & Sunset, The Jedi Steps and the Royal Air Force March Past.



## Breakfast Club

Did you know that there is a breakfast club in Stamford? They meet on the first Saturday of each month starting from 9.30am at the London Inn, St John Street, Stamford. This club provides the opportunity to meet with friends and veterans in a support capacity.

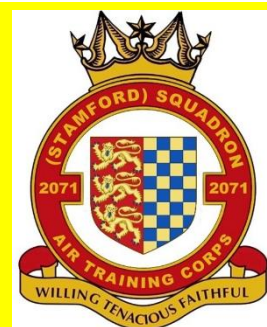
The meeting is usually held upstairs in the small room, and you order and pay for your breakfast yourself. The price is very reasonable. For further details please contact Tony at: [Afvbc.stamford@outlook.com](mailto:Afvbc.stamford@outlook.com)



## 2071 Squadron fundraising for The RAF Association (RAFA)

Organised by serving personnel, this event challenges people to complete 50 miles in just one week. They can cover the miles in whatever manner they see fit such as walking, running, cycling or rowing.

The challenge is virtual so you can take part from anywhere in the world. People have taken part all across the UK and in the USA, Canada, Romania, Belgium, the Falkland Islands, Iraq, Qatar, UAE, Oman and Cyprus.



The challenge is on from Monday 27 April 2026 until Sunday 3 May 2026, covering just over 7 miles each day for 7 days.

2071 Squadron have raised funds previously as below:

2022 - £1,083  
2023 - £1,139  
2024 - £695  
2025 - £1,114

You can make an online donation here: <https://www.justgiving.com/team/2071for2026>

**ARMED FORCES DAY**  
**28 June 2026**  
**Stamford Recreation Ground**  
**11:30 am till 6pm**

- \* Craft Stalls
- \* Food Outlets
- \* Live Music
  - vintage singers
  - Ellie James
  - Military Wives Choir
  - Bomber County Pipe Band
  - Huntingdonshire Philharmonic
- \* Last Night of the Prom Musical Finale
- \* Military Displays
- \* RAF fly past
- \* Fun Fair
- \* Childrens area
- \* Tea & Cake Tent
- \* Licensed Bar
- \* PIMMS tent

*Bring your chair and enjoy an afternoon of free entertainment!*

*Show support for the UK Armed Forces who serve their country and community, from fighting in wars to delivering aid to war or natural disaster-torn communities.*

Logos at the bottom include: Huntingdonshire District Council, Stamford Town Council, Armed Forces Day, Hunts, and Military Wives Choirs.

## Armed Forces Day 2026

The Stamford RBL are organising an Armed Forces Day to be held in Stamford on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2026.

Stamford Recreation ground will play host to the event, starting at 11:30am with an open-air drum head church service.

The day will then run until till 6pm and include a fun fair, live music acts, food stalls, licenced bar and finish with a "last night of the proms" style finale by Huntingdon Philharmonic.

The MOD are supporting the event with military displays, and the RAF are due to undertake a fly past.

Sue Wade and Julie Holton are undertaking a bottle stall and welcome any bottle you wish to donate (anything from a bottle of shampoo to a bottle of alcohol).

With around 202 members, if we all donated a bottle each there would be enough to make the stall a great success.

*We now need volunteers* to staff the RBL stand, providing RBL information and for RBL donations and to staff the tea and cake tent. We need members who can generally be around to assist the public and making sure the space is litter free.

This is a massive opportunity to showcase the branch and the RBL in general – we now just need your support!

Email the secretary: [stamford.secretary@rbl.community](mailto:stamford.secretary@rbl.community) or attend our briefing night on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May, 7.30pm at Blackstone Social Club.

### Poppy Appeal

On Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March the annual Poppy Party was held at Blackstone Sport & Social Club. Attended by branch members and poppy appeal volunteers with the branch president Air Commodore (Rtd) David Wilby to present the awards. The branch committee provided the buffet.

Another successful year for a Stamford Poppy Appeal. My very grateful thanks to the very generous people of Stamford and the surrounding villages. I must also thank my volunteers; without your help it would not have been possible to achieve this amazing total. To those who were on the stalls at Waitrose, Morrisons and Sainsbury's, to the Stamford branch RBL members who had the High Street store. To pat and her granddaughter Ivy who donated 600 clip-on poppies and to Frankie, sue and Julie who knitted over 1000 poppies. To Peter Wareham my deputy who looked after setting up of the Morrisons and Sainsbury's. To Peter, Matt and Sue who had the new Toucan app on their phone, between them taking donations amounting to £1358; making Stamford the highest in Lincolnshire for this payment method. Thanks to the branch committee for raising £1900 in the high street.

Stanford's donations for the card reader in the three supermarkets totalled £22,060.41, being the second highest in the county after Lincoln. My grateful thanks also to Sue and Julie for the help on the Stamford hospital still stall raising £149. In total we took £500 using the QR code.

Supermarket totals:

Waitrose totalling £16,261.24,

Morrisons totalling £14,152.65 and

Sainsbury's totalling £11,518.53.

Collection boxes in Stamford took £7480.59.

At the present time we are totalling £54,267.90.

I want to thank Chris, Jack, Darren, Allison, Julie, sue, Steve, Clive and June who did a lot of shifts at Sainsbury's and Waitrose. Thank you to you all.

Nationally the Poppy Appeal raised over £54Million.

## Branch Events 2026

Our website is kept updated with all branch events; the address is at the top of the newsletter. However, for ease please see below the activities currently planned:

### 2026

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May – Race Night, 7.30pm, Blackstone Sport & Social, Stamford (20p per bet)

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June – Bingo, 7.30pm, Blackstone Sport & Social, Stamford

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June – Raising the Armed Forces Flag, Stamford Town Hall, 11am

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June - Armed Forces Fun Day, Stamford High Street, Stamford, 10am till 4pm

Sunday 28 June – Armed Forces Fun Day, Recreation Ground, Stamford, 11.30am till 6pm

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July – TBC

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July – Roc on the Rec, Recreation Ground, Stamford, 10am till 8pm

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September – Guest Speaker: Gary Waterfall Deputy Lord Lieutenant, 7.30pm, Blackstone Sport & Social, Stamford

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October – Branch AGM, 7.30pm, Blackstone Sport & Social, Stamford

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October - Opening of Garden of Remembrance, Broad Street, Stamford, 10.30am for 11am.

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November – Remembrance Parade, Broad Street, Stamford, 10am for 11am.

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November – Armistice Day, Broad Street, Stamford, 10.30am for 11am.

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December – Branch Christmas Dinner, Danish Invader, 7pm for 7.30pm.

Do you have something you would like the branch to do in 2026? If you have any ideas, please contact the branch secretary at [Stamford.secretary@rbl.community](mailto:Stamford.secretary@rbl.community)

**Remember:** these events are provided for your enjoyment and an opportunity to socialise with people from similar backgrounds and interests. It's up to you, the branch membership, to support these evenings and make them into the success they should be. It's your branch and the committee are keen to hear your views. Social events provide an opportunity to do this in a supportive manner.