



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Stamford Branch

Formed 7 June 1922

www.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/stamford
stamford.secretary@rbl.community



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION
Registered charity number: 219279

Branch Newsletter – February 2026

Welcome to the February edition of the Stamford RBL newsletter. Happy New year! We hope you had a great festive period and a peaceful start to the New Year.

St George's Day Sausage & Mash Dinner

Friday 17th April sees the branch hold its annual St George's Day Sausage and Mash Dinner. The event has been held for the past few years now.

Last year we moved the event from a Monday to a Friday, and this was positively received, enabling the many members who may struggle to attend these events during the weekdays to attend.

Arrive from 6.30pm for a 7pm sit down. Sausage and Mash, vegetables and gravy will be served to you at the table, along with the dessert (choice of Cheesecake or Chocolate Brownie). Tea and Coffee will be available from the bar after the meal.

Ellie James, a local singer, will perform during the meal but feel free to get up and dance!



RBL
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION
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St George's Day
SAUSAGE & MASH NIGHT

£17
2 courses, coffee and entertainment

Friday 17th April
6.30pm for 7pm
Danish Invader,
Stamford

Ellie James
Singer

Contact: Ali
stamford.treasurer@rbl.community

To book your place contact the branch treasurer at:
Stamford.treasurer@rbl.community
Ali will provide you the BACS details should you wish to pay by this method.

County Conference 2026

The County Conference was held over the last weekend of January in Horncastle.

This provided the opportunity for county branches to come together and to hear about the great work that has been happening over the county.

The guest speaker was the Director of the Poppy Appeal. She spoke about the vision for the RBL and the new strategy, which has 3 pillars.

In relation to the poppy appeal, there is going to be a few changes this year, with all poppy appeal collectors having a dedicated poppy appeal collector lanyard and to have improved technology.

On a county basis they spoke about the support being offered to one of the veteran athletes attending the Invictus Games.

Armed Forces Day 2026

The Stamford RBL are organising an Armed Forces Day to be held in Stamford on Sunday 28th 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.

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 160 members, if we all donated a bottle each there would be enough to make the stall viable. This was a good fundraiser when we hosted for the VE celebrations, and we hope it will be again this year.

We also need volunteers to staff the RBL stand, providing RBL information and for RBL donations.

However. we do need someone to support the day with the the organisation of the Tea Tent. Unfortunately, the WI have declined our offer for them to run this vital part of the day, so we are now putting out an appeal for interested individuals. The stall will be within a marquee, where tables and chairs are provided and the equipment needed to run an efficient tea tent – ideally if there were cakes to sell too! If you're interested, please let the secretary know at Stamford.secretary@rbl.community

Do you know anyone who may like to trade at the event? There is no cost in having a stall and we are ideally looking for local craft stalls. Again, please direct to the secretary at Stamford.secretary@rbl.community

Its going to be a great day, Cottesmore Military Wife's are confirmed, so bring your flags and let's support our armed forces community!

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

- * Charity Stalls
- * Live Music
- * Tea Tent
- * Licensed Bar
- * Military Displays
- * RAF fly past
- * Fun Fair
- * Climbing Wall
- * Last Night of the Prom Musical Finale

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.

2025/26 Poppy Appeal

A big THANK YOU to everyone who supported the Poppy Appeal.

The total amount raised to date is £54,397.10.

The 'Poppy Party' will be held on Monday 17th March – held at Blackstone Sport & Social Club, Lincoln Road, Stamford at 7.30pm. During the evening several individuals will be receiving certificates and Poppy Awards.

The branch thanks Jim for all his hard work and to Pete who supports Jim with the appeal.



Remembrance Parade 2025

Stamford was blessed with good weather on Sunday 9th November as the town came together for the annual service of remembrance, held in Broad Street.

A two-minute silence was observed, led by the Chairman of the Stamford Branch of the Royal British Legion, and wreaths were laid at the War Memorial.

The Mayor of Stamford Councillor Amanda Wheeler gave a reading, and a short service was conducted from the War Memorial. Poet Laureate Ross Ayres read a poem written especially for today's event.

Again, there was a fantastic turn out of the members of the public and amazing support from the armed services, especially the cadet forces. The Royal British Legion was represented by many members which was great to see.

Thank you to all of you that supported the event.





Poppy Installation

Thanks go to Julie and Sue for the poppy installation that was present at the remembrance parade, cascading over the Browne's Hospital balcony wall.

This was a new venture for 2025, with plans to increase the poppy installation this year.

Julie and Sue were presented with a certificate in recognition of their efforts from the Town Mayor.



Football Remembers

Stamford Town and Blackstone`s undertook a two-minute silence before their match in November. Stamford Town was supported by the RBL Standard, with the RBL Chairman attending the Blackstone match. Our grateful thanks for these clubs which supported the act of remembrance.

Armistice Day

Stamford fell silent on 11 November for the Two Minute silence, held at the War Memorial in Broad Street. Attended by representatives from local school and Civic dignitaries.

There was only a very small RBL presence, which is very disappointing. Let's hope we have better support this year.

Christmas Tree Festival

The RBL once again supported the Lions Christmas Tree Festival, which was held in St John`s Church, Stamford.

The theme of our tree this year was `Parcels for the Troops` something the Stamford RBL assisted with several years ago.

The tree was well received by members of the public, many commenting on the relevance of our theme.

We are currently thinking of a theme for this year.

Colsterworth Festival of Remembrance

The branch is in receipt of a donation from Colsterworth Festival of Remembrance, who are a local community group who organise the Remembrance Day in Colsterworth.

The group have donated £100 to the RBL.

We are very grateful for their donation to the branch, which will be used to support RBL members and veterans in the local area.

"Love Lives On" (Anonymous)

Those we love remain with us,
 For love itself lives on,
 And cherished memories never fade,
 Because a loved one's gone.
 Those we love can never,
 Be more than a thought apart,
 For as long as there is memory,
 They'll live on in the heart.

RBL Support

With events escalating across the World and Middle East, these may have affected you, we're here for you.

Whether you're worried about loved ones overseas, or feeling general concern, our support team is ready to listen.

Call us on 0808 802 8080 between 8am-8pm, seven days a week.

If you prefer, you can also reach us via online chat (8am-8pm daily) or email at info@britishlegion.org.uk.

Branch Christmas Party

On Saturday 13 December the branch held their annual Christmas Ball at the Danish invader. This event was again well supported, and we welcomed several new faces to the event.

We are aware of an issue with the starter pre-orders, which we would like to apologise for. Upon a root cause analysis discussion this was caused by a mix up on the excel spreadsheet, which then went to the venue with incorrect information. We thank those affected for your understanding on the night. However, what is disappointing is that we have been made aware that an individual was rude to one of the waiting staff, causing them to be tearful and unable to come front of house for the remainder of the night. This is not acceptable behaviour and discredits the reputation of the organisation.

We are also aware that the service was slow and that the tables needed to be round in nature. Both of these points have been made to the Danish Invader for consideration for this years event on Saturday 12th December.

Overall, the event went down well, and we thank you all for your support. We hope the surprise visit of Father Christmas was one of your highlights of the night.



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 16th March – Poppy Party, 7.30pm, Blackstone Sport & Social, Stamford

Friday 17th April – St Georges Day Sausage & Mash Dinner, Danish Invader, 7pm.

Monday 18th May – Race Night, 7.30pm, Blackstone Sport & Social, Stamford

Monday 15th June – Bingo, 7.30pm, Blackstone Sport & Social, Stamford

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

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

Sunday 28 June – Armed Forces Fun Day, Recreation Ground, Stamford, 10am till 6pm

Monday 20th July – TBC

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

Monday 21st September – Gary Waterfall Deputy Lord Lieutenant, 7.30pm, Blackstone Sport & Social, Stamford

Monday 19th October – Branch AGM, 7.30pm, Blackstone Sport & Social, Stamford

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

Sunday 8th November – Remembrance Parade, Broad Street, Stamford, 10am

Wednesday 11th November – Armistice Day, Broad Street, Stamford, 10.30am for 11am.

Saturday 12th 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

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.

Veteran Cinema Invite

Veterans Cinema night on the 3rd Friday of every month at RAF Wittering. It is free to ex-service personal and a donation of £4 to their family/friends.

The organisers arrange the passes and have a `WhatsApp` group where the members get to vote what's shown.

People can either contact them via email : wilcoxfam95@outlook.com or via `WhatsApp` on 07583202771.

Breakfast Club

Did you know that there is a breakfast club meet held on the first Saturday of each month in Stamford?

Starting from 9.30am and meeting 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

