



# THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

## Stamford Branch

Formed 7 June 1922



[www.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/stamford](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/stamford)  
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### Branch Newsletter – June 2024

Welcome to the June edition of the branch Newsletter. There has been many things happening over the past few weeks and a few things to come in July, I hope therefore that you find this informative.

Please remember that this is YOUR branch and to get the most out of being a member you do ideally need to participate. An easy way to achieve this is to attend the branch social nights or attend one of the many activities that the branch is currently undertaking.

#### D Day 80<sup>th</sup> Commemorations

Many of you will have seen the excellent coverage on the TV for the D Day 80<sup>th</sup> commemorations. Commemorations in Stamford were organised by Stamford Town Council and included an evening of displays, entertainment and the lighting of the beacon.

Stamford RBL were invited to lead the remembrance aspect of the commemorations. Under the direction of the branch padre, Reverend Peter Stevenson, veterans, armed forces cadets, civic dignitaries and members of the public remembered those that served and continued to serve with prayers and a moments silence.

The branch held a D Day display and sold pin badges, including the new RBL 80 Poppy pin badge. There was much interest from the public and it was great to finally meet some more of the branch membership.

Our stand raised a total of £89.83 for branch funds (the 80<sup>th</sup> pin badge money goes to the poppy fund and is not included in this figure).

Our branch president made the following statement: ...`I would be most grateful if you could pass on my congratulations to all those who participated in yesterday's Activities on the Stamford Recreation Ground. It was a very good turnout of our Veterans and under Shaun's strict control they did us proud. Very smart, despite some creaking limbs, and even our growing Mobile Brigade operated in delightful formation. The weather was most kind, at last, and we had a very commendable turnout from our Stamford Families. "BZ!" to all concerned`, David`...



Stamford Mercury covered the event with a digital and paper editorial which included pictures, this can be found at the following link: <https://www.lincsonline.co.uk/stamford/news/beacon-lit-for-d-day-as-people-turn-out-to-commemorate-brave-9369569/>

#### Do we have your correct contact details?

Our membership details are provided from the RBL subscription company. If you are not receiving e-mail and you have an e-mail address, please let us know. We have recently introduced text messages, again if you do not receive these, please provide a mobile number. We really want to keep you as informed as possible..... help us to help you!



## 2071 Squadron receives Kings Award

Stamford 2071 squadron recently was awarded the Kings Award for Voluntary Service.

The Kings Award for Voluntary Service is the highest award any voluntary organisation can receive - Stamford Air Cadets is one of a handful of hundreds of Cadet squadrons to receive it, and the only one in Lincolnshire.

Stamford Town Hall played host to the presentation of the certificate for service from the Lord Lieutenant for Lincolnshire, Mr Toby Dennis on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June. Members of the RBL were invited and included our youth officer and president. 2071 squadron are affiliated to the Stamford RBL branch.

The whole branch wishes to congratulate the squadron on its achievements and for receiving this prestigious award.

Rutland and Stamford sound interviewed Group Captain Andy Pass and Officer Commanding the unit Danielle Tetherton. You can read and listen further using this link:

<https://www.rutlandandstamfordsound.co.uk/.../stamford.../>



## Branch Events

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:

Sunday 7th July - `Stamford Lions Rock on the Rec` - Stamford Rec, from 12pm till 7pm

Monday 15th July - `Race Night` - Blackstone Sport & Social club, 7.30pm

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July - Malcolm Sargent School art exhibition, 5pm

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> August - RAF wittering Open Day, times TBC

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September - Battle of Britain parade and service, times TBC

Monday 16th September - `play your cards right` - Blackstone Sport & Social club, 7.30pm

Tuesday 1st October - Personal Development Fair - Kendrew Barracks, times TBC

Monday 7th October - `Branch AGM` - Blackstone Sport & Social club, 7.30pm

Sunday 10th November - `Armistice/ Remembrance Day` - Broad Street, 11am

Monday 11th November - `Armistice/ Remembrance Day` - Broad Street, 11am

Monday 18th November - `Games Night` - Blackstone Sport & Social club, 7.30pm

Date TBC December - `Christmas Ball` - The Danish Invader, 7pm

## Social Media

Do you use social media, such as Facebook? Stamford branch has its own Facebook page, where you can read news of interest to the RBL community. It also links with other RBL branches and therefore keeps everyone informed of what is going on, not just in Stamford but the surrounding area.

Despite having 156 members, we only have 41 Facebook followers, and we would love to see this increase. Search for:

Royal British legion - Stamford branch



## Members Birthday

I'm sure you will join us in sending our best wishes to those that celebrated a birthday in June:

Richard Anderson

Robert Bidwell-Bonde

Paul Catterall

Marcus Croft

Ivan Graham

James Jennings

Keith Langley

Michelle Rae

Ian Reynolds

Alan Salter

Alan Scott

John Smith

James Wilsher

## Armed Forces Day

The Armed Forces Day Flag was raised outside the town hall on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June in a short ceremony attended by the Mayor, councillors, representatives of RAF Wittering and members of the Royal British Legion. Rev. Fr. Neil Shaw, the Mayor's Chaplain, gave an Armed Forces reading, and Caroline Avnit, Stamford's poet laureate, read a poem to the assembled guests.

As part of the celebrations the Stamford branch held a stall within the Stamford high street on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June, which promoted the work of the RBL and encouraged individuals to join the branch.

As with the D Day commemorations there was much interest and it was great to talk to veterans, some current RBL members and some not. During the day we received a small amount of donations, to the value of around £50, which is for branch funds.

One of the main reasons for holding these public displays is to raise awareness as a Stamford community charity and to build community partnerships.



## RBL Subscriptions

You will all have received communication from membership services of the increase to RBL subscriptions from October this year.

The RBL membership will increase by £2 each year, for the next 5 years.

On top of this subscription, local branches can amend their joining fee, which for Stamford is currently £1. Recently the committee was asked by Haig House to review this fee and it was decided to keep the branch membership subscription at £1 for 2024/25.

This would mean that from September subscription fees for the RBL will be £21 (£20 for Haig House and £1 for Stamford) in total.

## Branch Standard Bearer

Following our media campaign and after discussions with our MEO we have secured the services of Lynne Parker-Kiamil. Lynne has moved to Lincolnshire and is looking to support local branches. Lynne undertook the role as County Standard Bearer for Essex until her move to Lincolnshire. A warm welcome and thank you goes to Lynne.

## Branch AGM

Our branch AGM is scheduled for Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October. At this meeting we need to elect a number of committee appointments as follows:

- Chairman
- Vice Chairman
- Branch Treasurer (appointed position)
- Branch Secretary
- Membership Secretary
- Committee Members

If the Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary cannot be appointed into, the branch will be managed by the county committee until such positions are filled.

If you have any interest in any of these positions, please make contact and we can discuss what the role entails with you.

## Veteran Breakfast Club

Don't forget the Veteran Breakfast Club held the first Saturday of each month from 9.30am till midday at The London Inn, St Johns Street, Stamford.