

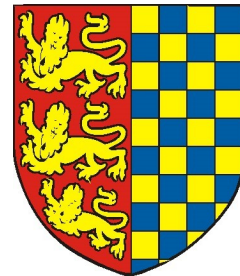


The Royal British Legion Stamford Branch

Formed 7 June 1922

Website: <http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/stamford>

Affiliated with : 2 Squadron (Stamford Detachment), Lincolnshire Army Cadet Force, 2005
: 2071 (Stamford) Squadron, Air Training Corps, 2007
: Stamford Welland Academy Combined Cadet Force, 2023



Legion Airs – October 2023

Battle of Britain Parade/RAF Wittering Freedom Parade

The Battle of Britain Parade on 17 September this year was given added significance by RAF Wittering exercising their privilege of a Freedom Parade through the town of Stamford. This privilege was granted to RAF Wittering in 1960 as a mark of the Town's friendship and confidence in the military base, and accorded them the freedom to parade through the town with weapons and Standards, led by the Sword and the Scroll of Freedom. A special mark this year was a fly-over by the BBMF Lancaster bomber.



The Mayor of Stamford, Cllr Andy Croft welcomed the parade at the War Memorial on behalf of the people of Stamford and the Service was led by RAF Wittering Padre, the Reverend Squadron Leader Andrew Tucker and All Saints' with St John's Church Rector, Father Neil Shaw.

Seven Branch members, led by Shaun Arthur as our Parade Marshall, were on parade, plus another half dozen supporting from the Memorial area. Terry Meader stepped in at the last minute and did a splendid job carrying the Branch Standard.

Annual General Meeting

Everyone has now received, by email, a copy of the Convening Notice, and nomination forms for the Branch Officers and other Committee members for 2023/4. Some members of the Committee will be standing down this year, so do please come forward. The average age of our Committee is somewhere in the mid-70s with several of us in our 80s and even 90s. We badly need new, young blood, fresh ideas and the vigour of you youthful 60year olds!!!! So do come forward; we need you!

It will all take place in Blackstones Club, prompt at 7.30pm on Monday, 16 October.

New Members' Evening

We shall follow the AGM immediately with a new members evening when we shall welcome those members who have joined us in the past 12 months. We hope to explore with them why they have joined the Branch and what they hope to contribute. It will be a splendid opportunity for us all to meet each other and to bring them into our fellowship and activities. Several have already told me that they will come; we hope that many of the others will also do so.



Jazz Pops, who entertained us at the St George's Sausage & Mash, will entertain us again at the Invader.

Christmas Dinner

60 members and their guests have now signed up for our Christmas Dinner! And we still have room for a few more. But do hurry as we have to close the list by 31 October; we need time to plan with our caterers etc.

The meal will consist as follows:

Starter - Prawn Cocktail or Soup
Main - Carvery with lots of choice
Dessert - Christmas Pud or Cheesecake.

Please email your choices to this newsletter email rblstamford.newsletter@gmail.com and dbrawnsley@gmail.com.

Dress will be 'smart' and even black tie, and ladies in their posh frocks. No scruff, please. Doors open at 6.30 for a 7pm sit down. There will also be a Raffle, so please bring a gift if you can. It is going to be one of our great nights.

Poppy Appeal

The Legion will launch this year's Poppy Appeal nationally in the last week of October. In Lincolnshire this will take place on Saturday, 28 October at the National Aviation Centre at East Kirby. The ceremony starts at 11.00am and will end, as always, with the roll-out and taxiing of *Just Jane*, their Lancaster bomber. A formidable experience!

The Poppy Appeal in Stamford will start on Monday, 30 October with stalls in the three Supermarkets once more, Morrison's, Waitrose and Sainsbury's. There will be poppies, crosses etc in shops, businesses, churches, pubs, clubs, schools and lots of other places where you will be able to get your Remembrance items. Donations can be made with cash, there will be card readers in all three Supermarkets and this year there will be also a QR code on boxes. There will be a stall at Stamford Hospital and also items at the Cards for Good Causes at St, John's Church. All donations will be credited to the Stamford RBL Poppy Appeal.

This year we will be introducing the non plastic Poppy which will eventually replace the plastic Poppy. We have a limited number of new poppies as we have to use up the old stock first!

Jim Jackson, our Poppy Appeal Organiser, is currently contacting his volunteers for their help in the Supermarkets. He thanks those who have already volunteered and would welcome any new help.

Finally, we thank you all for the Support that you give to the Poppy Appeal in Stamford and surrounding villages, We really appreciate it and we could not do it without you. We always end up with a fantastic amount.

New Membership Engagement Officer (MEO)

We extend a warm welcome to Kai Shield, as the new County MEO. An MEO is what used to be called a County Secretary in olden days, ten years ago. Kai is recently retired from the 1st Military Working Dog Regiment at St George's Barracks. He has already been a great help to us and also joined us at our Welfare Workshop on RAF Wittering on 21 September. We look forward to working closely with him in the future.

Wreath Laying Marshals

I have received not one response to my plea in last month's newsletter for members to help to maintain order and decorum among the wreath bearers at the Service of Remembrance on 12 November. Come on! Is there no one willing to give a hand?



Josh clothing

Avid readers of this newsletter will recall an article, in the April/May edition, about Josh who puts all kinds of motifs and designs on Teddy bears and clothing. Several of our members bought t-shirts and other items with the RBL Stamford logo from him at our Centenary Festival fun day on the Rec in June.

Josh now has a stall, pictured, here in the market every Friday and would welcome enquiries from members if they would like anything with a special design from a whole range of leisure and other clothing. His stall is usually somewhere between St Augustine's Church and the butcher's van in Broad Street. Or you could email or telephone him direct at Mindstorm on 97596 447016 and at mindstorm.media.productions@gmail.com.

Branch Welfare Workshops

Five of us – Brian Marsden, Terry Meader, Brian and Eileen Coleby, and myself flooded in to the Families Coffee Bar at RAF Wittering on 21 September to man our monthly welfare workshop. It was somewhat quiet which enabled us old hands to demonstrate to our newcomers what we do there and why. Kai Shield (our new MEO) also joined us there, so we were able to get to know him and to brief him on what Stamford Branch gets up to. It was a very useful and enjoyable morning and several serving men and women said how pleased they were that we were now back. We now have a useful core of volunteers to man our stall but we shall need more to cover during absences for one reason or another, especially when we move back into Kendrew Barracks.

We shall be at RAF Wittering again on 19 October when, I hope, we shall have more members joining us to continue this most worthy of all our activities.

COMMITTEE MEETING

1930hrs Monday, 6 November – Blackstones Social Club

BRANCH SOCIALS

1930hrs Monday, 16 October (New Members' Evening – after the AGM)

1930hrs Monday, 20 November

COMING EVENTS

Monday, 30 Oct - Start of the Poppy Appeal

Saturday, 4 Nov - Inauguration of the Garden of Remembrance

Saturday, 11 Nov - Armistice Day

Sunday, 12 Nov - Remembrance Day

Wednesday 6 Dec - Branch Christmas Dinner, The Danish Invader

Saturday, 6 June (2024) – Stamford D Day 80th Anniversary

Saturday, 29 June (2024) - Armed Forces Day/ Branch Annual Fun Day



Editor: Steve Bonde
31 Clare Close,
STAMFORD, PE9 2QA
01780 757041
rblstamfordnewsletter@gmail.com