



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Stamford Branch

Formed 7 June 1922

www.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/stamford
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ROYAL BRITISH LEGION
Registered charity number: 219279

Branch Newsletter – November / December 2024

Welcome to the November and December edition of the branch Newsletter. I hope you find it full of information and memories of the branch activities towards the end of 2024.

Remembrance Parade

Stamford was blessed with good weather on Sunday 10th November as the town commemorated the Remembrance Service in Broad Street. There was a fantastic turn out of the members of the public and good support from the armed services and cadet forces. The Royal British Legion was represented by many members. However, it was noticeable that there were many members of the public wearing medals but were not on parade, let's hope we can convince them to join in for 2025, as you do not have to be a member of the RBL to parade at the remembrance service. There were a few challenges on the day, which have been discussed in an attempt to make the 2025 parade work better.

Thank you to all of you that supported the event and to our Vice Chairman, Tony, for providing drinks and light refreshments at the Jolly Brewer after the commemorations.





Armistice Day

Monday 11th November saw Stamford fall silent at 11am to mark Armistice Day. Several members of the public joined the Royal British legion and the Stamford Town Mayor at the Town's War Memorial for the traditional silence. As in previous years pupils from local school attended the ceremony and joined in with laying a wreath and singing a remembrance song. We are grateful to our Padre, Peter, for arranging this and for all the schools that took part.



Poppy Appeal Thanks

Again, I must thank you all for your help during this years Poppy Appeal. I very much appreciate it. Although we did not reach last year's total, I am extremely happy that again we were over the £50,000. I was astounded with the generosity of all those who supported the Poppy Appeal here in Stamford, those who live in Stamford and the surrounding villages.

I can give you all an update of the monies that were taken, this is not from HQ so their total may be more as I have no BACS details, and they have to confirm Morrissons and Sainsburys cash takings.

We have raised so far £52,013.03 broken down as follows:

Boxes, Wreaths £9,544.45 (2023 = £11,280.82)

Supermarkets below include care reader totals

Morrissons £14,526.48 (2023 = £16,955.87)

Sainsburys £11,878.41 (2023 = £11,266.20)

Waitrose £15,570.39 (2023 = £14,309.90)

Card reader total £20, 154.31 (2023 = £17,765) – included in the figures above.

I will send out a further report once I have received notification from HQ as to the totals.

Thanking you all once again,

Jim

Members Birthday

Please join me in sending our best wishes to those that celebrated a birthday in November and December:

Shaun Arthur

Eileen Bangay

Christine Baron

Linda Baron

Nigel Barrett

David Beal

Neville Cossou

David Ellis

William Flynn

Tony Francis

Nick Goy

Paul Harper

Effie Houston

Douglas Hyde

Gareth Jones

Margaret Lee

Stephen Lilley

Brian Marsden

Darren Rawnsley

Morag Roberts

David Rumbell

Pat Savory

Ryan Simpson

Roy Stafford

Mark Stevenson

Tony Story

Patrick Voigt

Karen Wilkinson

Pasing of Eddie Flawn

The collection at the funeral of Eddie raised £65 which has been added to the branch funds. We are grateful for the family for this donation towards the branch in memory of Eddie. Our thoughts remain with the family at this sad time. We shall remember them.

Pasing of Kevin Gallagher

It is with deep sadness that I inform you of the passing of Kevin Gallagher, who joined the branch in 1996.

We understand that the funeral will take place in the new year. Once details are available, I will ensure these are disseminated.

...we will remember them...

St John Church Christmas Tree Festival

Stamford RBL were invited to join around 40 other local charity and community groups in the provision of a tree within St John's Church, Stamford.

The church, best known for the sale of charity Christmas cards, has held the tree festival for a number of years, which is attended by the many thousands of visitors to the town during December.

The tree costs £20, with decorations being provided by RBL committee members. This year the tree theme was remembrance and depicted poppies, remembrance crosses and pictures (old and new) on a remembrance theme.

We have leaflets available on the membership of the RBL.

The Branch is planning to partake in the 2025 tree festival and hopes to theme the tree on presents and parcels that are sent to serving members of the armed forces.



Festival of Remembrance – Royal Albert Hall

Have you ever attended the Royal Albert Hall Festival of Remembrance?

Each year, tickets go on sale for the festival, with RBL members provided with advance purchase, but you have to be quick to select your seat and pay before they are all sold. This year I decided to attend, I selected my seat and paid for my tickets, in the time it took me to do this, all the seats for the evening performance were sold!

The whole event is well organised with clear instructions provided on access and timings.

What you don't get when you watch this on TV is the emotion that surrounds you, yes there were many people in tears, but it was the feeling of support and camaraderie that touched me the most. After the service those service personnel that stood where the poppies fell, scooped them up and handed them to those that attended, making you feel part of this moving service. If you have never attended its worth doing with tickets on sale mid-2025.



Branch Christmas Dinner / Ball / Party

Our Christmas meal this year was held on Wednesday 18th December at the Danish Invader, Stamford. A total of 55 RBL members and guests attended, which was slightly down on previous years.

The Branch committee understand the concerns raised with the day and date that was chosen, however at the time we needed to accept the dates that were available to us. You will be pleased to note that we have already booked the date for 2025 – **Saturday 13th December 7.30pm till midnight.**

Our thanks go to the Danish Invader for hosting the evening and to all those that supported the event. Thanks to the Padre for reminding us of our Latin and to our raffle team which raised over £200 which enables us to support these social activities.

Our President undertook the Exhortation and later in the evening provided a toast to The King.

A good night was had by all.



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:

2025

Saturday 25th January – County Conference – Horncastle, 11:30am

Monday 20th January – New Year Quiz - Blackstone Sport & Social club, 7.30pm

Monday 17th February – TBC

Monday 17 March – Graham Cook – Speaker on drawings / paintings

Monday 21st April – St Georges Day Bangers & Mash Dinner, Danish Invader, 7.30pm

Thursday 8th May – 80th VE Day Commemorations – Stamford, TBC

Monday 19th May – Poppy Party

Monday 16th June – Race Night, Blackstone Sport & Social club, 7.30pm

Saturday 28th June – Armed Forces Day, RBL stand, Stamford High Street.

Sunday 29th June – Stamford Big Day Out, Stamford Meadows, RBL stand from 10am

Sunday 6th July – Rock on the Rec, RBL stand.

Monday 21st July – Play your Cards Right

Friday 15th August – 80th VJ Day Commemorations – Stamford, TBC

Monday 18th August – VJ Commemoration Summer BBQ

Sunday 7th September – Battle of Britain Parade, Broad Street, Stamford, 10.30am

Monday 15th September – Beatle Drive.

Monday 20th October – Branch Annual General Meeting, Blackstone Sport & Social club, 7.30pm

Saturday 1st November - Opening of Garden of Remembrance, Broad Street, Stamford, 10.30am

Sunday 9th November – Remembrance Parade, Broad Street, Stamford, 10am

Tuesday 11th November – Armistice Day, Broad Street, Stamford, 10.30am

Monday 17th November – TBC

Saturday 13th December – Branch Christmas Dinner, Danish Invader, 7pm for 7.30pm)

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

Festive Wishes

Christmas is filled with thrilling wonders and exchange of lovely gifts. The joy of the season is awesome and our heart swells with deepest gratitude for the spirit of sharing, happiness and love. We pray it remains with us throughout the New Year. Even when our community is filled with dark shadows of life, we may feel apart; but Christmas comes with renewed hope and courage to rediscover the strength and reason to be thankful for life, love and family.

The Royal British Legion is a family and exists today because of all those that have come together over the years and who continue to come together to partake in, or foster, our vision of remembrance while creating diverse opportunities that both challenge and support individuals.

We would like to thank you all; the members, veterans, supporters and committee for everything you have done during 2024.

The branch committee extends their warmest wishes to all of you at this festive time and wishes you good health, a wonderful festive season and a Happy New Year.