



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

Stamford Branch Newsletter – May 2025

Welcome to the May edition of the Stamford RBL newsletter. It was a busy end of April and a very busy May, so I hope I have managed to catch all of our activity. Your in for a long read.....

Sausage and 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.

This year we opted for a more relaxing form of entertainment in the form of Alan Jackson. Who entertained us during and after the meal with his vintage singing.

Our grateful thanks go to the Danish Invader team, who again provided a hearty meal, and this year provided complimentary tea and coffee.

For those that could not make it, we hope you will in 2026!



Members Birthday

Please join me in sending our best wishes to those that celebrated a birthday in May.

Michael Boaden
Robert Farrell
John Fox
Paul McKean
Terrance Meader
Richard Parkins
Robert Rae
David Wilby
Doreen Wisdom



Armed Forces Day 2025

Saturday 28th June sees the Country commemorate the Armed Forces with Armed Forces Day. Stamford RBL will be hosting a stand in Stamford High Street to showcase the work of the Armed Forces and the RBL.

If you can spare time to join us on our stand, you would be most welcome.

The Armed Forces flag will be raised at Stamford Town Hall on Monday 23rd June at 11am. We invite all RBL members to attend this short event and show your support to the Armed Forces community.

Stamford Hospital VE Commemorations

The Stamford Branch were asked to support a VE commemoration event by Northwest Anglia Healthcare, who were holding a cake stall at each of their hospitals, with donations going to the RBL. The event held between 12 midday and 2pm commenced with the 2-minute silence, where RBL members were joined by hospital staff.

In total around £200 was raised during the afternoon.



Browne's Hospital VE Commemorations.

The promise of Corn Beef Hash was too tempting for some branch members who represented the RBL at the Browne's Hospital VE Commemoration event.



The event, which raised funds for Browne's hospital and the RBL, started with the vintage singers and the chance to purchase some drinks and raffle tickets. Those that attended were entertained by the Vintage Singers, and of course, received what we thought was Corn Beef Hash (it was actually rough mash potatoes and Beef brisket). However, a nice evening was had by all.



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.

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.

Stamford VE Commemorations



The Branch paid a crucial part in the recent VE commemorations, especially at the Town VE commemorations on Thursday 8th May.

A drum head service, music by Stamford Brass and the lighting of the Towns beacon were the main activities provided to the hundreds that attended to support the event and this period of remembrance.

Our thanks to Mark Warwick for conducting the service and the ATC Cadet for providing a standard bearer.



Colsterworth Sport & Social Club

...What a brilliant day and amazing turnout we had for VE Day, thank you everyone who came and supported our hero's it was wonderful to see so many people and the community come together.

We hope you all had a lovely day and the weather didn't disappoint.

Thank you to all of the committee for hosting and huge efforts to make it look amazing. Thank you to our wonderful bar staff for keeping everyone hydrated...



We collected £200 from you amazing lot, and we have decided to match the amount collected for the Royal British Legion.

We have made a payment of £400 today to the RBL, once again thank you to everyone who dug deep in their pockets to donate.

The branch is very appreciative for the support of Colsterworth and have sent their thanks to them.

Stamford VE Commemorations



You would struggle to miss the branch attendance at the Town's VE commemorations on Saturday 10th May.

Complete with our new branded gazebo the committee raised funds in the form of a bottle tombola. Tickets were priced at £1 for 3 tickets, with the chance to win a bottle (ranging from ketchup and chilli sauce to champagne and spirits).



Bottles were generously provided by branch members and friends of the branch. In total over 200 bottles were provided!

The branch had available the VE 80 and VJ 80 pin badges, along with other RBL branded materials for people to purchase, for a donation. Membership and general information leaflets were given out.

The ATC supplied cadets to help the public search for their prizes. It was great to see the cadets interact with the branch, veterans and public in such a professional manner. They were a credit to their squadron and our sincere thanks go to them.

Interestingly during the afternoon our branch chairman was able to provide a veteran, who attended the gazebo, with some community welfare advice. This proves that there are many veterans and armed forces individuals that need support of the RBL. We sincerely hope that they have taken the advice provided and contacted the support line of the RBL. The branch committee wish to re-commence welfare meetings soon.

The stand raised around £1000 for the Stamford RBL.

Special thanks go to Sue, Julie and Ali who arranged and staffed the gazebo, and who folded the hundreds of raffle tickets, and to Doreen and Peter who assisted with the staffing and the clearing away. Thanks also to those members that attended to support the event.

Remember, this is your branch, and the committee attend these events to advertise the work of the RBL for the benefit of the RBL. They would love to increase the number of uniformed members that attend these events, so if you have some time to spare in the future, please let us know.

On These Days of Victory by Darren Rawnsley

They stood in silence,
not for lack of words,
but for all that had already been spoken
in gunfire and telegrams,
in ration lines,
in the hush of empty chairs.

In fields, towns and skies far from home,
the forces pressed forward,
through mud, shrapnel, flame, and fear,
carrying the weight of nations
on tired shoulders
and steady hands.

Their courage was outstanding,
Young boys left Blighty and returned wiser, but sadder
men,
Women on the front line, decoding,
giving their lives in the suburbs of France, Poland and
the Netherlands
Giving up was never on their minds, only success and
achievement.

At home, a different kind of courage—
the patience of mothers, the toil of workers,
children growing up too fast to the sound of distant
thunder
and daily sacrifice.
By the end, the world fractured and rebuilt itself,
stone by stone, promise by promise.

Now we gather, not to glorify war,
but to remember peace hard-earned,
and to carry its light forward.

The past holds its sorrow—
but the future stretches open,
bright as the morning
after the sirens ceased.

Free,
because they made it so.

Stamford RBL attends Church Service

On Sunday 10th May Terry Meader, as part of the VE commemorations, attended Christchurch to talk about his time in the armed forces.

Terry spoke to the congregation and read a poem especially written for VE and VJ Day, written by Darren Rawnsley called `On these Days of Victory`.



School Visit

Darren Rawnsley attended St Augustine School as part of the VE commemorations to partake in their assembly.

Darren spoke about his time in the forces, what the meaning of victory means and to read his poem.



Remembering VE and VJ Day

Darren Rawnsley managed to secure some National Lottery money and provided a free VE and VJ remembrance event at Stamford Corn Exchange – Stage 2 Café. Served with authentic food of the era and entertained by the Vintage Singers this event was attended by some RBL members. A good time was had by all.



Veteran and member from across the Pond

The local branch was thrilled to receive communication from branch member Peter Weston, who resides in Gatesville, Texas. Thank you for getting in touch and for your kind gift.

Peter was hoping to attend one of the branch socials when he was over in December 2024, but the dates unfortunately did not match up. Recently Peter has sent the branch these items, which were on display at the VE commemoration recently.

Its lovely to be able to form bonds across the pond and we hope to be able to meet Peter when he is next in the UK.

Poppy Party

On Monday 19th May the annual Poppy Party was held at Blackstone Sport & Social Club. Attended by 33 members and the deputy Town Mayor the following awards were presented:

15 year: John & Beryl Ingham, Tony Purkis.

10 year: Michael Atkins, Paul & Sue Beard, Linda Mills, Elaine Wharam & Terri Cusack.

5 year: Trevor Battle, Chris & Ian Pybus, Elaine Guy and Jeff Land.

The 2024 Poppy Appeal raised a fabulous figure of £53, 032.05 as of 21st May 2025. Jim expressed his thanks to all the volunteers and supermarkets during the two weeks of remembrance. Thanks, were also passed to 3 mobile catering squadron RAF, 20 works group and 12 engineer group (both Royal Engineers stationed at RAF Wittering). Special thanks to Peter Wharam for this support as the deputy.

Supermarkets raised the following:

Waitrose: £15,570.39

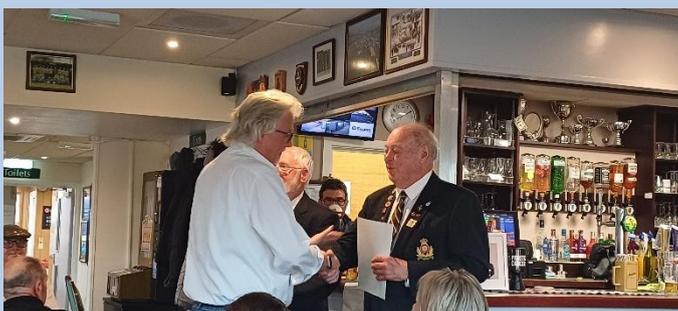
Morrisons: £14,309.90

Sainsburys: £11,878.41

Schools did exceptionally well with Malcolm Sargent raising £639.27. In total schools raised £1892.21.

Shops and businesses in the town raised £2,239.03. Easton on the Hill supported the appeal with a remembrance collection, raising £186.84. Public houses raised £1543.90, many who had collection boxes all year around. The knitted poppies (thanks to Linda Mills, Pat Macaig, Karina Thorne and Frankie Rae) raised around £4,700.

Looking back since November 2009 Stamford has raised an amazing £710,718.19 for the Poppy Appeal. This is truly an amazing total.



Festival of Remembrance 2025

In response to a motion proposed at Annual Conference 2024, and a subsequent review of the ticketing process, we are pleased to announce that ticketing will now be conducted through a ballot. This is to enhance the ticketing process for members and to ensure fairness, accessibility and inclusivity.



Key changes:

Instead of tickets being bought on a first-come-first-served basis, members will have three weeks to enter a ballot for a chance to secure tickets through an online platform. This is to ensure that more members have a chance to secure tickets. After the ballot closes, tickets will be allocated randomly by the online system. Unique payment links will be issued to successful applicants, providing a secure and streamlined payment process. Members will be able to purchase a maximum of two tickets for either the afternoon or the evening performance.

You will need your membership number and a valid e-mail address.

Ballot rules:

Each member is allowed to enter the ballot once.

Successful applicants will be notified by email.

Unique payment links will be single-use and must be completed within seven days from the date received.

Key dates:

Ballot Registration Form opens: Wednesday 4th June 2025

Ballot Registration Form closes: Tuesday 24th June 2025

Ballot starts: Wednesday 9th July 2025

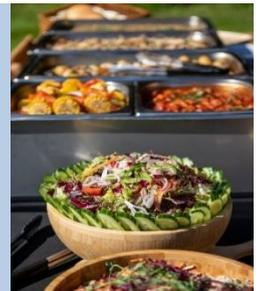
Successful members notified from: Thursday 10th July 2025

Ketton Parish Council

A concert and Hog Roast was recently held by Ketton Parish Council in commemoration of VE Day on 8th May.

This was a village event with a swing band playing music from the period with dancing. The village community choir took part in a short concert and led community singing for everyone to join in. A hog roast was funded by the local Whitebread Charity.

In total the event raised £225.80 which has been presented to the Stamford RBL.



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

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

Monday 23rd June – Armed Forces Flag raising, Stamford Town Hall, 11am

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

Sunday 6th July – Rock on the Rec, RBL stand, Stamford Recreation Ground, from 11am till 7pm

Monday 21st July – `Play Your Cards Right`, Blackstone Sport & Social club, 7.30pm

Wednesday 30th July – RAF Wittering Family Day

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

Monday 18th August – VJ Commemoration Summer BBQ, location and details TBC

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

Monday 15th September – `Beetle Drive`, Blackstone Sport & Social club, 7.30pm

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

Friday 24th October - Opening of Garden of Remembrance, Broad Street, Stamford, 10.30am for 11am.

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. 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.