



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

Stamford Branch Newsletter – September 2025

Welcome to the September edition of the Stamford RBL newsletter. There has not been a newsletter since May, mainly due to the fact that we wanted to ensure a bumper edition, rather than something of little substance.

Lions Fun Day

The Stamford Branch supported a local charity, Lions International, at their recent fun day in July.

This is in keeping with our commitment to support local community groups and to engage with the local community and raise awareness of the work of the Royal British Legion.

The day started off rather wet, this was one event that we were very thankful for a watertight gazebo, but as soon as the rain stopped members of the public gathered to visit the traders that braved the weather and to hear the music that forms part of the event.

We had a good number of visits from members of the public, interested in hearing more about the work we undertake.

In total we received £77.12 in donations.

If you have time next year, come join us for an enjoyable afternoon of public engagement and listening to music.



Members Birthday

Please join with me in sending our best wishes to those that celebrated a birthday in June, July, August and September.

June

Richard Anderson
Robert Bidwell-Bond
Paul Catterall
Ivan Graham
James Jennings
Keith Langley
Al Pinner
Michelle Rae
Ian Reynolds
Alan Salter
Alan Scott
John Smith
Peter Weston
Phil Willsher

July

Caroline Anderson
J Beaver
Julia Ford
Alison Fruin
Richard Hill
Jim Jackson
Michael Stretton
James Turner

August

Derek James
Robert Auty
Steve Bond
Jonathan Channing
Brian Coleby
B Fennessy
Geoffrey Hilder
William Hughes
David Parr
Beryl Rawlings
Maria Riley
Edmund Rogers
Marvyn Thorpe
David Young

September

Dawn Barrett
Karen Carter
Andrew Fenn
Tony Flutter
Heidi Presland
David Thompson
Tracey Travis
Martin Vines
Matt Wade
Nic Watkins



Armed Forces Day 2026

Stamford Royal British Legion have been granted permission to hold an Armed Forces Day on Sunday 28th June at Stamford Recreation Ground between 10am and 6pm.

Current plans include a music extravaganza, culminating in a last night of the proms type event performed by a Military Band between 4pm and 6pm. Due to friendly connections we already have the support of The Army and Royal Navy, Military Wives Choir and Richard Jones (military magician from Britain's Got Talent).

There are several vendors who have expressed an interest in attending, so it's beginning to already be a great event!

Over the next month we hope to pull together a group of interested members who may wish to form the organising group, if you are interested, please let the secretary know stamford.secretary@rbl.community

Bluecoat School Thanks

We express our sincere thanks to Bluecoat School who worked together to design and form the 80 symbol that was used at the recent VE and VJ commemorations. Following their usage, this was donated to the Branch to use.

The 80 is made from plastic bottle bases, painted red, white or blue.



Armed Forces Day 2025

A small contingent attended the civic Armed Forces event in June, hosted by Stamford Town Council.

The Mayor of Stamford, Councillor Amanda Wheeler, welcomed guests and gave a short reading before the flag was raised to honour members of the Armed Forces community. Stamford Town Council welcomed members of the Royal British Legion, representatives of RAF Wittering, councillors and members of the public for the short flag raising ceremony.



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 Branch.

If interested, please let the branch secretary know at

stamford.secretary@rbl.community

Located in a different position to the previous year, the Branch once again took to the town in support of Armed Forces Day.

Another excellent public engagement exercise and raising £67.58 in donations.



The Late Revd Cannon Dr Donald Grey

It is with great sadness that we are notified of the passing of Rev Cannon Donald Grey, who passed away recently aged 94 years.

Donald served with great affection and respect as our Branch Honorary Chaplain at almost all of our Remembrance events from December 2008 until December 2017. He joined the Branch in 2008 and remained a branch member until his passing. Donald had a very varied career but most notably at St Margaret's Church, Westminster and as Chaplain to the House of Commons and to Betty Boothroyd, when she was the Speaker of the House. He also served as chaplain to the late Queen Elizabeth II.

Between 1958 and 1970, Donald served within the Territorial Army and was awarded the Territorial Decoration. He was also a Commander of the British Empire and a Knight of the most venerable order of St John of Jerusalem.

The funeral, held on 13th August, was held at St Marys Church, Stamford. A guard of honour was undertaken the evening before (when the coffin was received into church and again before the funeral and as the coffin exited). Our sincere thanks to those members to showed up to support the guard of honour. Timothy, Clare and Allison were extremely grateful for this mark of respect and in recognition of the service Donald provided to the organisation.

Stamford VJ Commemorations

The usually bustling Stamford Friday market fell silent as the town commemorated the VJ 80 day. The commemorations started with a welcome address by the town mayor, followed by short prayers and the reciting of the exhortation and last post. A 2-minute silence was observed with reveille and the kohima epitaph conducted before the laying of wreaths by Stamford Town Council, RAF Wittering and the Royal British Legion.

... "As Mayor of Stamford, I'd like to thank you for joining us to mark the 80th anniversary of the end of the second world war. As a community, we came together in May to commemorate the anniversary of VE Day, which marked the end of the second world war in Europe.

However, at that time, thousands of British and Commonwealth military personnel continued to fight Japanese forces in Asia and the Pacific for a further three months when victory over Japan was declared on 15 August 1945.

Today, we remember all those who fought bravely in those few months and whose service and sacrifice finally brought the second world war to an end.

It is important for us as a community to remember this anniversary, to reflect on our VJ veterans and the sacrifices they made and to ensure that their legacy is passed on to future generations. So let us stand side by side in gratitude and remembrance, for those who gave everything to allow us the freedoms we enjoy today" ...

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them*



A slightly different wreath laid by the Branch in recognition of the significance of the 80th anniversary.

Poppy Appeal

Jim Jackson has provided a final balance for the 2024/25 Poppy Appeal. Throughout the local community a grand total of £53, 375.90 was raised. This is slightly below that of the previous year, but a great achievement.

Total income through QR code: £493.31
Total contactless payments: £19,661.00
Total income Morrisons / Sainsburys: £15,495.90
Other income, including Waitrose: £16,971.34
All year-round boxes and badges: £754.35

Plans are already in place for the Poppy Appeal 2025/26 with all stock ordered and rotas being compiled. If you do not currently volunteer at a Poppy collection and have some spare time, please contact Jim at jimmycjackson@hotmail.com

The Branch committee will staff a RBL Poppy stand in Stamford High Street this year on Saturday 1st and Saturday 8th. If you would like to join them, please contact the Branch secretary stamford.secretary@rbl.community

Stamford Remembrance

The Garden of remembrance will open on **Saturday 1st November at 11am**, where there will be a short service and act of remembrance. . Any branch members attending are requested to be at the memorial by 10:45hrs.

The Annual Service of Remembrance and Laying of Wreaths will take place at the War Memorial, Broad Street, Stamford on **Sunday 9th November**. Branch members are requested to be in Star Lane by 10:30hrs.

There will be a short service, and two-minute silence held at the Stamford War Memorial at 11am on **Tuesday 11th November**. Any branch members attending are requested to be at the memorial by 10:45hrs.

Battle of Britain Parade

This year marks the 85th anniversary of the Battle of Britain.

Join us for the Battle of Britain Parade and Service at the War Memorial on Broad Street, **Sunday, September 14th**.

RBL member, Veterans and serving personnel are to assemble in Broad Street at 10:30hrs, ready to be in position outside the Corn Exchange Theatre for 10:40hrs.

A parade of RAF personnel from RAF Wittering will parade from Star Lane to the War Memorial, led by Stamford Brass Band. The Civic party will join them at the memorial.

A short service will commence at 11am followed by the laying of RAF wreaths.

Previously this event has received low turnout from the Branch. It does not matter which service you served under, all are welcome to show their support and to commemorate the event.

Branch Christmas Party 2025

When?

Saturday 13th December

Where?

Danish Invader, Stamford

Time?

19:00hrs for 19:30hrs sit down

Cost?

£23 (Price includes 3 course meal, tea and coffee, port for toast and entertainment) £24 if paying by card during a social evening to cover the cost of the transaction.

Smart dress required; miniatures may be worn.

Interested in attending?

Contact Ali Fruin

Stamford.treasurer@rbl.community

RBL ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Christmas PARTY

Saturday 13 December
7pm for 7.30PM

£23 per person
(includes 3 course meal, tea & coffee, port for the toast and disco)

SOUP
PATE
PRAWN COCKTAIL

ROAST TURKEY / BEEF
SEASONAL VEGETABLES

CHEESECAKE
CHRISTMAS PUDDING
CHEESE & BISCUITS

Danish Invader
Stamford

CONTACT TO BOOK
stamford.treasurer@rbl.community

Are you a Blackstone Member?

The branch are hosted at Blackstone Sport & Social Club, did you know that you can join as a member of the club?

Membership has the benefit of receiving discounts on any drink purchased. Membership costs £12

Lincolnshire Poppy Appeal Launch 2025

The Annual Lincolnshire County Poppy Event will be held at 11am on Saturday 25th October 2025.

All are welcome to join this popular event at the East Kirkby aviation centre, the home of Lancaster Bomber "Just Jane". The day includes a parade of Standards and cadets, Act of Remembrance, Swineshead Band, Poppy awards and entertainment.



A raffle prize kindly donated by the centre to win a seat on Lancaster `Just Jane` on a Taxi Run. This will be followed by the spectacular "Poppy Drop" when poppy petals are released from the wings of the Lancaster with the four Merlin engines at full throttle.

This year there is a focus on the end of WW11 and would like some of our "older" veterans to attend as our special guests. If you know of any please contact the County Parade Marshal or County Secretary.

Lincolnshire.ParadeMarshal@rbl.community or
Lincolnshire.Secretary@rbl.community

Branch AGM

You will shortly receive your convening notice for the Branch Annual General Meeting which will be held on Monday 20th October at 7.30pm at Blackstone Sport & Social Club, Lincoln Road, Stamford.

At the meeting you will hear reports from the president, chairman and treasurer.

Please ensure you return any nomination forms by the date stated on the convening notice as any received after this date cannot be accepted.

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: tfrancis-rblpeterborough@hotmail.com

Do you need support?

Royal British Legion

0808 802 8080

The Royal British Legion is working hard to support the most vulnerable in our society, be it older veterans that we care for, those who suffer from social isolation, or those who are simply overwhelmed by the challenges associated with the cost-of-living crisis.

Combat Stress

0800 138 1619

We provide clinical treatment and support for veterans from the British Armed Forces, focusing on those with complex mental health issues resulting from their experiences during military service.

Help for Heroes

0300 303 9888.

We have a mental health therapy service called Hidden Wounds. Our therapists use a range of approaches to support veterans, their family members aged over 18, and those who've served under UK command.

RBL County Chairman

Chairman's Update - from my hospital bed here in Nottingham

Branch Members, friends, I would like to pass on my sincere thanks for all your kind messages that have been passed on to me, they have meant a great deal.

It is strange how life can change so quickly, one minute you are doing something planned and the next – well, you never know.

It has, however, made me stop and think how life is changing around us each and every day. What we used to know and do in all walks of life can change and affect the way we now have to do things we do differently. Often people will ask why? If it's not broken why mend it? Now, in the 21st century things and life move faster and quicker each day. One minute it's Spring, now Autumn is looming. So, what am I rambling on about?

The Legion has, we all know, certainly changed. Why? So that, in our work, we meet the changing needs of the Armed Forces personnel and their families we support. So, how do we to go about this?!

What do we need to do?

Why do we need to do anything?

Who will this affect?

Where do we need to do it?

When do we need to?

It's not for me to tell you the answers to each item, but here are some ideas.

What is needed is to look at what your Branch actually does to meet the objectives of The Legion and to encourage members to attend.

Why? So that we are all working and achieving the same goals as set out and looking to recruit new members. (I know this is not easy but if we don't try, we will never know. If Branches are to survive then new members are needed).

Who will this affect? Obviously, the moral of the membership, show the community about The Legion and give everyone a purpose of belonging.

Where do we need to do it? At our Branch Meetings, going out to events and again showing the Legion is an active part of your local community in the area you cover.

When do we need to? All the time and not leaving it till it is too late to. Like anything, the more you can put into something, the more one can achieve, and have a sense of knowing that we all are endeavouring to make sure our Branches will be here for years to come.

Also, while I am here writing out my thoughts on keeping our Branches alive and kicking it is hoped that Branches are making sure that their Annual Accounts for year-end 30th June 2025 are completed and will be submitted as soon as possible and well before 30th September 2025, so that your Branch will be compliant. And Branches are in preparation for their Annual General Meeting (which needs to take place in October or November); making sure that all members receive notification of when it is to be held and for nominations in respect of Branch Committee needs good preparation, and planning is the best way to achieve this.

Finally, I must end by saying a very heartfelt thank you to Ray Scott who is looking after the shop while I am not with you. Ray is doing a wonderful job alongside The County Committee, and I know you will give him your support.

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

Sunday 14th 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

Saturday 1st November - 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 for 11am.

Monday 17th November – TBC

Saturday 13th 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.