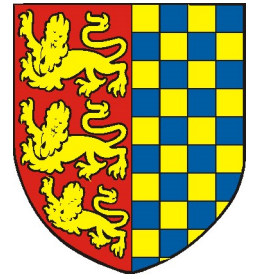




# The Royal British Legion Stamford Branch



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

## Legion Airs – July 2023

### In Foreign Fields

Nigel Barrett, our Branch Standard Bearer, has taken our Standard many times to Normandy in June to commemorate the D Day landings there. Previously he has paraded in Ravenoville, a small commune near St Mere Eglise, just north of Utah Beach, and one of the first villages to be liberated by US airborne forces. This year, however, his trip was a little different.



A couple of years ago, Nigel met a British veteran, George Batts, a former assault engineer on Sword Beach. Sadly, George has since died, so, on 5 June this year, Nigel carried out an act of homage and final tribute to this amazing gentleman by parading the Branch Standard one last time at Ravenoville. Moreover, as he about turned and marched off he received a fantastic round of applause, four US Army Generals stood and saluted our Standard, and a German army honour guard presented arms - all completely unrehearsed as only a few people were aware of his participation.



The following day, D Day, 6 June, saw Nigel with the Branch Standard and 30 other Standard bearers parading at the British Military Cemetery at Bayeux, a beautiful place where many of his father's mates are buried and much sentimental meaning for Nigel. The Parade Marshal asked Nigel if he would return with the Branch Standard to parade it at the Bayeux Cathedral for the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year.

I am sure that there will be no problem giving Nigel permission to take the Branch Standard to Normandy again.

### Legion in the Community

We have long enjoyed a excellent relationship with Stamford Town Hall, working with them on numerous civic and other formal and less serious events and projects. The Town Hall has now appointed Cllr Max Sawyer as their liaison officer with the RBL. This is welcome news. Max is an old friend of the Branch and his appointment can only strengthen our collaboration with the Town Hall and ensure that the Branch will be well placed to gain from whatever opportunities arise in the future.

### Joyce Burton Trophy

On 20 June, I had the great privilege and pleasure of presenting this year's Joyce Burton Trophy to Tristan Revell, the Headmaster of Malcolm Sargent School. The Trophy was richly deserved for their inspired reproduction of Westminster Abbey, the Kings' Crown, a Coronation street party and the union flag. The School then displayed their winning entry with great success at our Branch Centenary Fun Day on 24 June.



Our Branch Secretary was so impressed by the effort and imagination shown by the pupils that she is writing to Buckingham Palace to commend the winning entry to the attention of His Majesty the King. We wait, with hopeful anticipation, what will result.



We are searching now for a theme for next year's Trophy. Some suggestions so far are the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D Day and/or Arnhem, or perhaps Joyce Burton herself,

who spent a career in the care and protection of young children. Please let me have any other suggestions -

[rblstamfordnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:rblstamfordnewsletter@gmail.com)

## Remembering D Day 80 years on

Do you know a WW2 veteran who served in the Battle of Normandy, the largest amphibious operation in history, which marked the beginning of the liberation of France and Western Europe? The Royal British Legion will mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day with a national commemorative event, events in Normandy, and a series of local community events. And we will support all veterans who wish to mark this significant anniversary in a way suitable to their needs.

We want to find as many D-Day veterans as we can for the 80th anniversary and need your help.

If you are a veteran, have a family member who served, know a veteran, or carer please register your or their interest through this link [rbl.org.uk/dday80](http://rbl.org.uk/dday80). Once registered the RBL welfare team will be in touch with the veteran and/ or carer to understand how they would like to participate.

## Branch Welfare Workshops



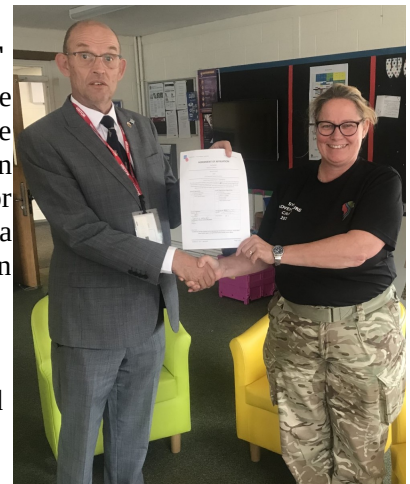
Your Branch was invited to take part in a Personal Development Fair in Kendrew Barracks on 21 June. The aim of the Fair was to show Servicemen and women at Kendrew what opportunities there are for them to undertake university and other further education courses, during their military service. Brian Marsden and Dave Atkinson, Branch Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and I enjoyed the opportunity to meet this new generation of Service personnel and discuss with them the wide range of welfare and other services which the Legion has to offer their generation of Service personnel and their families.

As reported last month, we plan to resume our monthly workshops at RAF Wittering very soon. Apart from the serious business of showing what welfare services we offer, we have really good fun, joking and swapping banter with today's generation, relating to them our military exploits, deeds and misdeeds and explaining to them what a Nissen hut is and the joys of living in it with just a pot belly stove for heating! If you want to join us, give me a ring or email.

## Stamford Branch RBL affiliate with Welland Academy CCF

We are delight to announce that your Branch has formally affiliated with the Combined Cadet Force of Stamford Welland Academy. The deed was done at the Academy when Kate Blundell, Senior Staff Instructor of the Cadet troop, on behalf of the Academy, and Shaun Arthur, your Branch Committee member for Youth & Schools signed the document of affiliation on 6 July. There will be a formal ceremony in September with the exchange of the Certificates of Affiliation and presentation of Affiliated Unit Badges to each of their Cadets.

We look forward to a close and varied collaboration between ourselves and the Academy in a wide range of activities including the Poppy Appeal, care for Stamford War Graves, mutual support at formal occasions, and our annual Armed Forces Day event.



*Shaun and Kate display the signed Agreement of Affiliation form*

## Membership Fee Surcharge

Last month's newsletter invited members' suggestions on whether or not the Branch should or should not raise its membership surcharge, levied on top of the national membership fee. Its current level of £1 has been the same at least 1995, if not earlier. Many other Branches levy much, much more. We have received no response, suggesting your confidence in your Committee. We have therefore now discussed the question and invite member's thoughts on possibly raising the surcharge to £10. Please contact me on [rblstamfordnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:rblstamfordnewsletter@gmail.com).

## Quiz Nights

For some ten years, until Covid, I used to run quizzes for the Branch (and elsewhere). Audiences varied but frequently there were 50 or more members taking part in those Branch Socials. In June this year there were 19 of us at the Branch Social, and indeed just 6 of us in May. Is there an appetite somewhere out there to revive our Branch quizzes, or other social activities? Would a Quiz Night tempt you? Please, someone, ring or email me (01780 757041, [rblstamfordnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:rblstamfordnewsletter@gmail.com)) to let me know.

## Membership details

I have at last gained access to the Legion's confidential 365 membership website with details of all of members. It is clear that their records of you are out of date in many respects – many telephone numbers, email addresses, and postal addresses especially appear to be out of date. If you have changed any of these in the couple of years, May I suggest that you let me know so that I can update them.

## Car Treasure Hunt



This (rather poor) image is of the Branch Car Treasure Hunt trophy. It was last won in May 2010 after an absorbing day driving following a trail of obscure and fiendish clues through the lovely Rutland and Lincolnshire countryside, followed by a pub lunch of the competitors and hangers on. It was a great day out.

Sadly, we have not run this event since then. We would however like to ask Members whether they

would like to revive this event. We await your responses –

[rblstamfordnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:rblstamfordnewsletter@gmail.com).

## COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, 3 July, 7.30pm – Blackstones Social Club

## BRANCH SOCIAL

Monday, 24 July 7.30pm - Blackstones Social Club

## COMING EVENTS

Sunday, 17 Sept – The Battle of Britain Parade & Service.01780 757041

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

## Your Branch Secretary



May I take this opportunity to present Linda Baron, our new Branch Secretary. Linda has already showed, with her enthusiasm and get-up-and-go, what a real asset she is going to be to the Branch. I am sure all our members will in return give her their every support.

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### Come to our Charity Car Wash

Date Saturday 12th August 2023

Location Stamford Fire Station

Event Information From 09:00-14:00

Help raise money for The Fire Fighters Charity & The Royal British Legion.

