

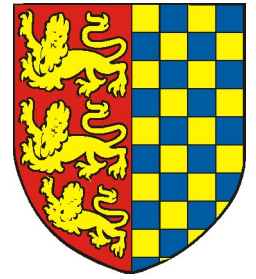


The Royal British Legion Stamford Branch

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 – March 2023

St George's Sausage & Mash

This glorious, annual event will take place this year in the Stage 2 Cafe in the Stamford Exchange Theatre at 6.30pm on Sunday, 23 April. The menu will include sausages and mash (of course) with peas (hopefully mushy and not too incandescent green), followed by sticky toffee pudding and custard, and teas and coffee. All this will be accompanied by the Jay Stebb Jazz group. We hope also to organise a bar to help it all go down.

Tickets for this sumptuous feast, and the chance to dine out with old and new friends in a great atmosphere, will cost £10 each (or £12.50 if we fail to entice a minimum of 25 of us to take part). You can get them from Darren Rawnsley on 07806 228494 or at dbrawnsley@gmail.com.



The Coronation

Stamford will, like the rest of the country, commemorate the Coronation of King Charles III on **Saturday, 6 May** with a programme of civic and local events across the whole weekend. Most of us will probably be glued to the telly on that day, but Stamford will start the weekend with a series of small local events in the various streets, closes, and districts of the town on **Friday, 5 May**.

The Town Hall is organising a formal Civic Service of Commemoration on **Sunday, 7 May**, possibly in All Saints' Church, and a big Community Celebration on the Rec on **Monday 8 May**. The latter's theme will be a *Big Help Out* initiative to recognise His Majesty's public service and the focus will be on local groups and communities who are assisted by volunteers. We shall perhaps provide a Guard of Honour at the Civic Service, and the Celebration on the Rec will provide us with an opportunity to reach out to a wide audience who may be interested in volunteering and in actively joining our work to support local former and serving members of the Armed Forces community. Watch this space!

The Dambusters



Tuesday, 16 May is the 80th anniversary of the famous Dambusters' raid on the German dams during WWII. We shall commemorate this incredible feat with a special showing of the 1955 film *The Dambusters*, accompanied with a Branch reception. This will provide an opportunity to meet and recruit members old and new, and hopefully raise funds for the Legion.

The event will take place in Christ Church, Green Lane, at 6.30pm on Tuesday, 16 May. The film is two hours long but there will be tea, coffee and biscuits (and perhaps more) available – all against a donation. Please contact Darren Rawnsley on 07806 228494 or at dbrawnsley@gmail.com if you want to be part of this once-in-lifetime event.

Stamford & Rutland Pressure Washing Company



Adam receiving the Certificate

Who? I hear you ask. They are the father and son team, John & Adam Regis, unsung heroes who regularly clean and keep the Stamford War Memorial in such immaculate and pristine condition – following the activities of the yooof and vandals who seem to gather there on Saturday nights.

It was time therefore that we demonstrated to John and Adam our thanks for all their care and service. So, I had the privilege and pleasure, at our Social on 20 March, of presenting to Adam a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the Branch



Adam under close supervision of John

Talk: Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC)

Barnack RBL will host a talk on the architecture and conservation work of the CWGC by CWGC speaker, Stephen Dalton. It will take place in Barnack Village Hall at 1900 for 1930hrs on Tuesday, 18 April. Entry is £3 on the night with all proceeds going to the CWGC.

Talk: The Red Cross Parcel – a great help to POWs and their families in WW2

All Branch members are cordially invited to the above talk, which will be held in Ketton Village Hall on Thursday 6 July at 6.00pm. Entrance will be £3 per person.

The Red Cross and St John Trust of course funded the famous Red Cross parcels that comforted so many prisoners of war and gave so much other help to the families of service men and women. It is said that this trust is the most successful charity ever in the history of the United Kingdom. This Stamford Branch of the RBL helped from 2008 to 2013 in a more modest way when we sent several thousand comfort parcels to our Armed Forces personnel when they were serving in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Responses please to me – Steve Bonde at rblstamfordnewsletter@gmail.com – as soon as possible so that we can assess the numbers coming. If necessary the talk will take place in Ketton parish church.

Branch Secretary

Rob Bidwell-Bonde has, sadly, had to step down as Branch Secretary following the death of his wife. We therefore badly need a volunteer to come forward from the membership to take on this vital role.

A Branch Secretary is, with the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Treasurer, one of the four officers of the Branch. He or she is responsible to the Branch Chairman and Committee for the efficient management of the Branch administration, in particular acting as the key liaison between the Branch and the outside world – RBL national and county representatives, such key Town institutions as the Town Hall, schools and other youth groups, the military bases, the Media, and the general public. A vital role is organising the monthly Committee meeting and the Annual General Meeting. The role requires administrative and keyboard abilities. It also delivers immense job satisfaction and respect and recognition locally.

I was the Branch Secretary for ten years from 2002 to 2011 and can assure any would-be aspirant that the role is nowhere near as busy now as it was in those hectic years. I would estimate that it needs, on average, 3 - 4 hours a week. The role has also shed its responsibility (to me) for producing this newsletter, for administering the Branch membership list, and for maintaining the Branch website. I would also be readily available to offer my support if required.

The Branch must appoint a new Secretary or it must close. Will someone please come forward.

COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, 3 April, 7.30pm - Blackstones Social Club

CENTENARY EVENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, 13 April, 7.30pm - Blackstones Social Club

BRANCH SOCIAL

Sunday, 23 April, 6.30pm - St George's Sausage & Mash Event, Stage 2 Cafe, Stamford Exchange Theatre

COMING EVENTS

Saturday, 6 May - Coronation of King Charles III

Sunday, 7 May - Civic Service of Commemoration

Monday, 8 May – Community Coronation celebrations, The Recreation Ground

Saturday, 24 June - RBL Stamford Branch Centenary/Armed Forces Day Celebration, The Recreation Ground

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

Helen

Rob and I would like to thank all our friends in the Branch who have been so supportive to us during the difficult time since Helen died in February. We have been inundated with cards of sympathy and we were so moved when the Branch provided a Guard of Honour for Helen at her funeral and later joined us at the wake in the Bluebell. We shall always remember your kindness – the Legion at its best, when it matters!

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