

Stamford in the Second World War

Public Air Raid Shelters

An important part of local planning was the provision of Public Air Raid shelters. At the start of the war there were nine with a total capacity to take 825 people. They were located at:

- the Scotgate Inn at no.5 Scotgate (100 people)
- Alderman J.S.Prior's house at no.2 Broad Street (50 people)
- Messrs Parrish's shop at no. 45 Broad Street (50 people)
- Messrs Thomas and Sons at no.11 Broad Street (200 people)
- Messrs Middleton's shop at nos 1 & 2 St Paul's Street (50 people)
- the Old County Club at no.27A St Mary's Street (50 people)
- Mr Haynes's house at no.16 All Saints Place (75 people)
- J.Woods & Son's shop at no.10 Ironmonger Street (50 people)
- the Bull and Swan Inn at no.25 High Street, St Martin's (200 people)

These were sited in the cellars of the above properties. Local builders Bowman and Sons made alterations, for instance, to the cellars of the Bull and Swan. Of course other people used the cellars of their own properties for family and friends.

In addition of course there were the Anderson shelters which were given free to householders who earned less than £250 per year, while those with higher incomes were charged £7 0s 0d. They were made up from fourteen curved and straight galvanised corrugated steel panels which were bolted together and designed to be semi-sunk into the ground.

The other type of shelter was the Morrison shelter, officially termed Table (Morrison) Indoor Shelter, which had a cage-like construction and came in 359 parts and had three tools supplied with the pack.

Those Air Raid Shelters that were made of brick and concrete were dangerous as nearby blasts made them unstable, and they had a potential to implode, unlike the Anderson Shelters.

Air Raid Shelters were also provided by firms for their staff who were involved in War Work and shops used their cellars for staff and customers alike.



Stamford Local History Society