

2025  
JANUARY-APRIL



# STAPLE HILL & DISTRICT COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Covering Bromley Heath, Downend, Emersons Green, Fishponds, Frenchay, Lyde Green, Mangotsfield and Staple Hill



## Welcome to our Community Newsletter!

**Hello and Happy New Year to all. This is the first edition of the 2025 Community newsletter from your Staple Hill and District Royal British Legion branch!**

Over the coming year there is much to look forward to at the branch. Whether you are an existing member or thinking of joining why not pop along to one of our branch socials on the first Friday every month this year to find out more. We arrive from 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

We welcome Hazel Sperrings to our committee as the new Membership Secretary for the branch, and I would like to extend my thanks

to our outgoing secretary for her years of service, Aileen. We are currently looking for a Treasurer and Secretary to join our branch.

Our mission for 2025 is simple - to have great socials for our members and guests every month; organise trips of both military and non-military interests and share in the camaraderie of each other throughout, with the shared goal of supporting our veteran community.

Finally, this year marks 100 years of the formation of the Branch. In this Centenary year, we are working alongside South Gloucestershire Armed Forces Day, to mark this special moment in our Branch history.

More details will follow, but it's an exciting time to join us as we enter our second

century.

Please, get in touch by email at [StapleHill.Chairman@rbl.community](mailto:StapleHill.Chairman@rbl.community) or contact 07896891189 for more information on the branch.

We look forward to seeing you at a social or trip soon!

**Scott Finnegan - Branch Chairman**

*Scott*



We meet on the first Friday of the month at the  
Page Community Association at 7:30pm

[www.StapleHillrbl.org.uk](http://www.StapleHillrbl.org.uk)



# Remembrance: The Heart of Our Calendar

The centrepiece of our calendar is, of course, Remembrance. In 2024, we were proud to collaborate with Staple Hill and Mangotsfield Parish Council, and the result was one of the largest community gatherings in Page Park we've seen, with more wreaths laid than in previous years. It was truly heartwarming to see the community come together in large numbers to honour our fallen heroes.



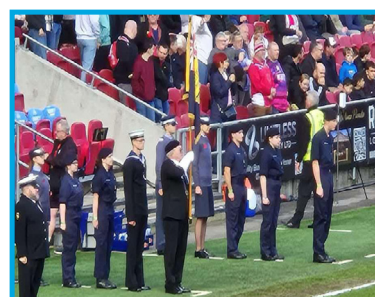
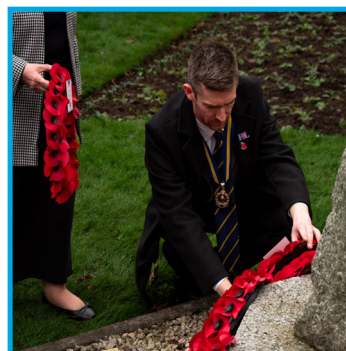
A particularly special moment also occurred at Christchurch, where Norman Low, a stalwart of the Branch and Life Vice-President of Gloucestershire County RBL, led a deeply poignant Act of Remembrance, recognising the fallen

resting there. Norman was joined by the local congregation and the local Member of Parliament, Claire Hazelgrove.

Equally memorable was the service in Mangotsfield, where the Mangotsfield Residents Association hosted a moving ceremony at the local memorial, bringing the community together in tribute.

At each of these we had our wonderful Standard Bearer, Paul Chilcott representing all of our members, past and present.

The organisation of these Remembrance events is always handled with care and professionalism, and last year's ceremonies were no exception. While November remains at the core of the Remembrancetide season, we also honour key anniversaries of other significant conflicts, including Victory in Europe Day and Victory in Japan Day, ANZAC Day, and the anniversaries of the Falklands War, Iraq, and Afghanistan.



## BRANCH QUIZ

Friday at 7:30pm.  
Page Community Association

03

£2pp - teams of up to 6. But please feel free to come along and join an existing team and make new friends!

Everyone is welcome!



## GENERAL MEETING

Friday at 7:30pm.  
Page Community Association

07

Buffet & raffle tickets available on the night

Everyone is welcome!

## BECOME A MEMBER TODAY

Why should you join our branch?

- We like to have fun whilst serving our beneficiaries
- Throughout the year we organise quizzes, guest speakers, meals and socials!
- We support the Armed Forces, veterans and their families locally
- Our popular coach trips take place throughout the year

But to do all of the above, we need you to join us.

So, what are you waiting for?  
Pop along to one of our socials,  
or call Hazel on 07717326302.



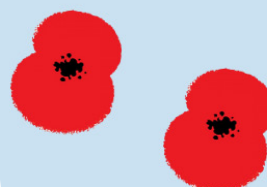
## Could you volunteer as a superm?



We need your help in Do Fishponds, Staple

For more information,  
poppyappealbris

079501





# A New Membership Secretary Joins the Committee!

After six years as Branch Membership Secretary, Aileen Hulin has decided to step down and pass the role on to Hazel Sperrings.

Hazel, a long-time member of the branch and Poppy Appeal volunteer is well-known to many in the community and brings a wealth of experience to the position.



veterans and their families.

Members, mostly from the local community, regularly gather for social events, enjoying camaraderie and the benefits of their membership. These include attending national events like the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall and participating in the Poppy Appeal. Locally, the branch also organises trips, outings, and hosts guest speakers, along with providing regular updates via newsletters and the RBL magazine.

Aileen will now focus on her role as Chair of the RBL Women's Section, and the branch wish her every success.

For membership queries, Hazel can be reached at 07717326302.

## RBL Women's Section

Did you know we have a thriving and active local Women's Section branch which supports the Armed Forces community and their families, both past and present?

They meet on the first Wednesday afternoon of the month when they have guest speakers and entertainment. On the third Wednesday of the month they meet for lunch at various local restaurants, always very popular! Throughout the year they enjoy trips and outings and support various events both locally and nationally.

Chair Aileen Hulin said "You would be most welcome to join us at one of our meetings, have a cup of tea and see what we are about." To find out more, contact Aileen on 07787733970 or go to [StapleHillrbl.org.uk/womens](http://StapleHillrbl.org.uk/womens)



### GUEST SPEAKER

Friday at 7:30pm.  
Page Community Association

Buffet & raffle tickets available on the night

Everyone is welcome!

### GUEST SPEAKER

Friday at 7:30pm.  
Page Community Association

Buffet & raffle tickets available on the night

Everyone is welcome!

## in one of your local markets?



Wend, Emersons Green, Hill, and Eastgate!

contact Ian Campbell

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

04450



## BRANCH BREAKFAST

Every month we meet at the Lamb Inn, Mangotsfield to chat, have a laugh and enjoy a tasty English breakfast!

Everyone is welcome to join us.

**Only £6.50pp - Includes a cooked breakfast and unlimited tea and coffee**

**Saturday 11 January 10am**

**Saturday 08 February 10am**

**Saturday 01 March 10am**

**Saturday 05 April 10am**

If you have served in the Armed Forces or are a spouse/widow(er) of someone who has and you can't afford the breakfast, we may be able to help.

Call Lynn on 07919151866 to book your place!



## Can you help us support our veterans?

We are helping several veterans at the moment, but we need more volunteers to join us as telephone befrienders and home/hospital visitors. Full training is provided.

If you feel you could help and spare a couple of hours, please contact **Ian** on **07950104450**.



# POPPY APPEAL TOTALS!

We want to say a massive thank you to everyone that volunteered for the Poppy Appeal this year. We raised over **£63,000** in our area! A big thank you to everyone that helped us achieve this; schools, supermarkets, local businesses and our incredible volunteers.

We're always in need of more help so whether you have volunteered for us before or you would like to start, everyone is welcome!

Please call **Ian Campbell**, Poppy Appeal Organiser on **07950104450** for more information.



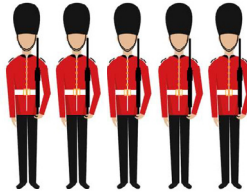
## Coach Trips 2025



### JUNE - LONDON

Join us for an amazing day out in London! More details are going to be announced shortly, along with a fantastic itinerary.

**£TBC**



### 09 AUG - BARRY DAY TRIP

We're off to the beach!!! We will be travelling to Barry for the day. You can visit the war or railway museum and have ample opportunity to explore on your own.

The minibus will drop you off and the day is yours.

**£15pp**

### 08 NOV - FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE

You've seen it each year on the TV, why not join us and watch it live. With fantastic entertainment and emotional tributes, this event is not to be missed!

**£TBC**

Members of the branch will get preferential rates! For more information or details of other 2025 trips, please contact **Ian Campbell** on **07950104450** or visit **www.StapleHillRBL.org.uk/events**



## Useful Numbers

**Branch Chairman**  
**Scott Finnegan 07896891189**

**To join the branch**  
**0800 307 7773**

**Branch Membership Queries**  
**Hazel Sperrings 07717326302**

**National RBL Support (8am-8pm)**  
**0800 802 8080**

**Branch Community Support / Trips**  
**Ian Campbell 07950104450**

**Staple Hill & District Womens' Section**  
**Aileen Hullin 07787733970**

**StapleHillrbl@gmail.com**

**StapleHillrbl.org.uk**

**07896891189**

