

2023
JAN/FEB/MAR



STAPLE HILL & DISTRICT BRANCH NEWSLETTER



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



Welcome to our community newsletter!

In January 2020 we launched our community newsletter, but due to the pandemic, we had to postpone its rollout. Now it is back and we want to share it with you.

As most will know, our building on Kendall Road was sold several years ago. Since then we have been growing our membership and finding a new home. We have a full committee and almost 140 local members. We are one of the largest branches in Gloucestershire and we keep growing.

Our socials take place on the first Friday of the month at 7pm at the

Page Community Association. Everyone is welcome to come along. There's a bar, a raffle and food!

It is important to remember why we exist as a branch. We are here to support serving members of the Armed Forces, veterans and their families. As someone who has served in the Armed Forces and as a member of the branch, I have seen first hand the great work that the Royal British Legion do, not just locally but all around the country and wider.

Our branch is open to anyone that supports our aims and we would love for you to join us as a new member.

We now need you to get involved and help us grow. Do you know someone that would like to join? Are your neighbours veterans?

Do your friends want to raise money for a worthwhile charity? Do you want to join our many coach trips and socials? We want to hear from you.

This newsletter will be produced every quarter and will be delivered around our community to keep you informed about what we are up to.

I hope to welcome you at one of our events soon!

Ian

Ian Campbell - Branch Chairman



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

www.StapleHillrbl.org.uk

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 **Jodie** on **07423629660**.



POPPY APPEAL TOTALS!

Last year we raised over **£61,000** in our area! A big thank you to everyone that helped us achieve this; schools, supermarkets, local businesses and our incredible volunteers.

On Saturday 08 June, we will be holding a one off collection in our supermarkets with our new D-Day 80 pins. Please go and get one.

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.



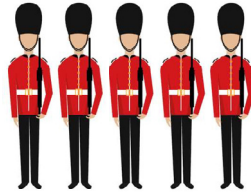
Coach Trips 2024



02 JUNE - MEMORIAL ARBORETUM

Join us to remember Gordon Wells as we visit the National Memorial Arboretum. If you haven't been before, you will not be disappointed.

Veterans and serving personnel travel free only £18pp for everyone else.



17 AUG - PORTHCAWL DAY TRIP

We're off to the beach!!! We will be travelling to Porthcawl for the day. The minibus will drop you off and the day is yours.

£15pp

09 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

For more information or details of other 2024 trips, please contact **Jenny Nicholl** on **07809127809** or visit **www.StapleHillRBL.org.uk/events**



Useful Numbers

Branch Chairman / General queries
Scott Finnegan 07896891189

To join the branch
0800 307 7773

Branch Membership Queries
Aileen Hulin 07787733970

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

Branch Community Support
Jodie Hawkins 07423629660

Staplehillrbl@gmail.com

Staplehillrbl.org.uk

07896891189



2024
MAY-AUGUST



STAPLE HILL & DISTRICT COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



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



Welcome to our Community Newsletter!

Since January, your local branch have enjoyed several trips and social meetings; including stargazing down on Exmoor, the Birmingham International Tattoo, and visiting the RAF Museum at Cosford.

Our first major act of remembrance for this year was ANZAC Day on the 28th of April. In Leighterton. The weather held out and Norman, our long standing Committee member, laid a wreath on behalf of the branch. You can read more on page 2.

I'm delighted to say our membership continues to grow. As we move into the warmer, Summer months, we have much to look forward to.

We will be present in Fountain Square at the monthly Market on the Hill, the Mangotsfield Festival and at Page Park for the D-Day 80 Service on Sunday, 9th June. I invite all of the community to join us at midday for the service of remembrance.

Some of our youth members of the Army Cadet Force, are also planning to fundraise for the RBL in July, with a march from Bitton to Bath and back again - good luck to them! We are always looking for youth members to join us, membership is free – and for those working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Award this is one way of contributing towards it.

Finally, our Branch Community Support scheme is always looking for people who

want to be there for the beneficiaries of the RBL in the capacity of a telephone buddy, or doing home visits. If this is something that you think you could play a part in we would be grateful to have you on the team!

Thank you from me to all our members for continuing to bring warmth, comradeship and upholding the values of our organisation.

I hope to see you at a meeting or social soon.

Scott

Scott Finnegan - Branch Chairman

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

www.StapleHillrbl.org.uk



Members Join the Community in Honouring ANZAC Heroes

For over 100 years, the Leighterton Community have honoured the Australian and New Zealand casualties from the first world war.

Members of the Staple Hill and District Branch once again joined the local community and branches from across the county to remember the fallen.

Long standing committee member and Life Vice-president of Gloucestershire County, Norman Low, laid a wreath on behalf of our members while local school children laid the traditional rosemary on each of the graves.

Members of the Australian and New Zealand Air Forces joined Air Marshal Sir David Walker KCVO OBE DL along with county officials and standard bearers in paying homage to the 24 servicemen.

each year, but if you're not a member yet and you would like to attend, please do let us know and we will make sure you are included in our arrangements.



Air Specialist (Class 1) Ian Campbell, former branch Chairman drove the minibus for members and took the

official pictures of the event, as he has for the past four years.

It is important we honour the memory of those that have fought and our branch is keen to continue to travel to Leighterton



BRANCH SOCIAL & COUNTY CHAIRMAN VISIT

Friday at 7pm.
Page Community Association

07

Buffet & raffle tickets available on the night

Feel free to come along and meet us on the evening.



GUEST SPEAKER

Friday at 7pm.
Page Community Association

05

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 Aileen on 07787733970.



D-DAY 80

The War Memorial, P
Sunday 09 Jun

Everyone is
Call 07950104450 t



Coach Trip to the National Memorial Arboretum in Memory of Gordon

In memory of one of our past members, we are taking a coach to the National Memorial Arboretum.

Gordon Wells was part of the Staple Hill and District Branch for many years, as well as being a key figure in the local community.

During the Second World War, Gordon served with the Merchant Navy and was part of the Atlantic convoys and the liberation of Guernsey; something he was immensely proud of.

In 2020, Gordon was awarded his Legion d'honneur from the French Navy at the National Memorial Arboretum, Burton-on-Trent.



To remember Gordon, the branch has organised a trip to the Arboretum on **Sunday 02 June 2024**. This will be a **free** trip for veterans and serving personnel. In addition, there will also be a number of £18 tickets for branch members and the wider community to join the visit.

If you are interested in either a free or paid for place on the coach, please use the link below to book your place.

Register here - <https://www.staplehillrbl.org.uk/event-details/free-trip-to-the-national-memorial-arboretum/form>



RBL Women's Section

Are you a woman who shares our commitment to the aims and objectives of the Royal British Legion? If so, we invite you to become a part of our highly active and welcoming Women's Section!

Our Women's Section is a thriving group that regularly organises meetings, lunches, and exciting outings exclusively for our members. We understand the importance of fostering a strong sense of camaraderie and providing a platform for women to connect and support each other:

To find out more, contact the Chairman, Aileen Hulin on 07787733970 or go to staplehillrbl.org.uk/womens



BRANCH QUIZ

Friday at 7pm.
Page Community Association

£2pp - teams of up to 6

Everyone is welcome!

Register with Adie on 07813444005.

POPPY BBQ HOSTED BY PAUL AND LYNN

Saturday at 2pm.
153 Earlstone Crescent

Food, raffle and great company!

Everyone is welcome!

ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

Age Park, Staple Hill
at 12pm

welcome
to order a wreath



BRANCH BREAKFAST

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

Everyone is welcome to join us.

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

Saturday 04 May 10am

Saturday 01 June 10am

Saturday 06 July 10am

Saturday 03 August 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 Jodie on 07423629660
to book your place!