

Can you help
us support local
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**.



Coach Trips 2026



Below you can find details of our planned trips for 2026. Everyone is welcome, but if you join the branch, you get cheaper tickets!

Saturday 07 February
Imperial War Museum & RAF Museum London

The weekend of 08-10 May
RBL Annual Conference, Brighton

Saturday 06 June
Bletchley Park and Gardens

Saturday 08 August
Portsmouth Royal Navy Museum

Sunday 06 December
Fleet Air Arm Museum & Exeter Christmas Market

For more information or to reserve your seat, please contact **Ian Campbell** on **07950104450** or visit www.StapleHillrbl.org.uk/events



Poppy Appeal 2025

We want to say a massive thank you to everyone that volunteered for the Poppy Appeal last 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 gearing up for a busy collection this year and 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.



Useful Numbers

Branch Chair
Ian Campbell 07950104450

To join the branch
0800 307 7773

Branch Membership Queries
Hazel Sperrings 07717326302

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

Branch Community Support
Ian Campbell 07950104450

Trips
Ian Campbell 07950104450

2025
SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER



STAPLE HILL & DISTRICT COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



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



Welcome to our Community Newsletter!

It's been another busy and memorable time for our branch, with plenty to reflect on and plenty to celebrate.

We had a fantastic trip over to Barry where we visited the South West Aviation Museum and the beach. It was a really enjoyable day out, full of fascinating history, and a great chance for members to spend some time together.

On Victory over Japan Day we joined the Salvation Army for a very moving service. It was an important moment to pause and remember those who served in the Far East during the Second World War, and to give thanks for the

peace we enjoy today. Our standard was carried with pride, as always.

South Gloucestershire Armed Forces Day was another highlight. The event itself was superb, thanks to the hard work of the committee, local councils and volunteers, but for us it was even more special as we were presented with our brand-new standard to mark our centenary year. Receiving it in front of so many friends and supporters was a proud moment for all of us.

We also had the great privilege of celebrating the 100th birthday of our good friend and RBL member, Harry Francis. Many of you will have seen or met Harry; he's a true gentleman and a local hero. To see him reach this incredible milestone surrounded

by family and friends was just wonderful. His service with the Royal Navy and Royal Marines, including time in Burma, is an inspiration to us all. Happy Birthday, Harry!

As our centenary year continues, it's been brilliant to welcome new members into the branch. Whether you've served, have family connections to the Forces, or just want to show your support, you'll always find a warm welcome with us.

Thank you, as ever, for your support, especially in the run up to our annual Poppy Appeal. I hope to see you at a social soon!

Ian Campbell - Branch Chair

Ian



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

www.StapleHillrbl.org.uk

StapleHillrbl@gmail.com

StapleHillrbl.org.uk

07950104450



Celebrating South Gloucestershire Armed Forces Day 2025

South Gloucestershire Armed Forces Day was a truly memorable occasion, and one that showed the very best of our community coming together to honour our Armed Forces. From start to finish, the day was filled with pride, respect and celebration.

One of the standout moments was the parade. It was fantastic to see so many members of the community lining the route, waving flags and cheering on the veterans, serving personnel and cadets as they marched by. The atmosphere was electric, and it was clear just how much support there is locally for our Armed Forces family.

We were also privileged to host an Armed Forces Reception, where veterans, serving members of the Forces and local dignitaries shared lunch together. It was

a great opportunity to catch up, share stories and strengthen the bonds that tie us all together. Many thanks to AHM Catering for supplying the delicious food and RT Consulting for helping fund this element of the event.

Our branch had a particularly proud moment as we were presented with our brand-new standard to mark our centenary year. To receive it on such a special day, in front of friends, family and fellow veterans, was deeply moving. Congratulations to our Standard Bearer Paul Chilcott for carrying it with pride.

A huge thank you must go to the organising committee, sponsors, South Gloucestershire Council and all the volunteers who made the day such a success.



Remembering Victory over Japan 80 Years on

On 31 August we came together to mark VJ Day with a service hosted by the Salvation Army.

Poor weather meant the event had to be moved indoors, but this did nothing to take away from the dignity or the atmosphere of the occasion. The service was thoughtful and respectful, giving us all the chance to pause and remember those who served in the Far East during the Second World War, and to reflect on the sacrifices they made in the name of peace.

As part of the service, local dignitaries and veterans were invited to lay wreaths and small crosses in remembrance. This simple act of tribute was deeply moving, and a reminder of the debt we owe to those who endured so much in such difficult conditions.

We are especially grateful to the team from the Salvation Army for welcoming us so warmly and to their wonderful

band, whose music added so much to the service. Their contribution made the occasion even more meaningful for everyone who attended.

Afterwards, several of our members visited our good friend and Far East veteran, Harry Francis, to hold a short personal service at his home. It was a very special and fitting tribute to the 'Forgotten Army.'



You're invited to our Centenary Ball

For 2025, our annual 'Poppy Ball' will be celebrating our 100 year anniversary and we're inviting everyone to join the celebration.

Enjoy a delicious three-course meal from our friends at AHM Catering, fantastic entertainment, and the warm camaraderie that makes our community special.

Tickets are just £35 per person.

Reserve yours at one of our monthly socials or online at www.StapleHillrbl.org.uk

Let's make this 100th anniversary a night to remember.



BRANCH SOCIAL

Friday at 7:30pm.
Page Community Association

05

Buffet & raffle tickets available on the night
Everyone is welcome!



AGM

Friday at 7:30pm.
Page Community Association

03

Food orders and RSVP on our website
Everyone is welcome!



QUIZ NIGHT

Friday at 7:30pm.
Page Community Association

07

£2pp with CASH PRIZES!
Buffet & raffle tickets available on the night-
Everyone is welcome!



CHRISTMAS MEAL

Friday at 7:30pm.
Page Community Association

05

Food orders and RSVP on our website
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 in one of your local supermarkets?



We need your help in Downend, Emersons Green, Fishponds, Staple Hill, and Eastgate!

For more information, contact Ian Campbell
poppyappealbristol@gmail.com
07950104450



12-18 YEARS OLD?

Become a Youth Member of the Royal British Legion, for free!

Take part in local and national events, volunteer in your community, develop leadership and teamwork skills, and earn Duke of Edinburgh volunteering hours.

Join a national network of young people making a real difference. Sign up today and start making an impact!



Scan the QR code for more info.

