

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

2022 - A YEAR IN REVIEW

From beginning 2022 with the risk of another lockdown, this year has seen us return back to relative normality, if there is such a thing.

We started the year picking up several awards at the Gloucestershire County Annual General Meeting for being efficient and for our efforts. This was a fantastic boost for our members and for the committee that worked tirelessly over the course of the pandemic.

The branch was keen to celebrate the late Queen's Platinum jubilee and so we did. We organised a jubilant party with a live band, dancing and great company. The hall was packed and everyone got into the jubilee spirit.



Our chairman was invited to Buckingham Palace to watch the Trooping of the Colour and the Jubilee parade and branch members were in Page Park to celebrate with the community. Sadly, as we all know, we lost Her Majesty The Queen and our members mourned along with our district at events in Kingswood and the Square in Staple Hill.

2022 marked the 40th anniversary of the Falklands War and we made sure we marked the occasion locally by hosting a

remembrance service at the Staple Hill War Memorial in Page Park

We ended the year by our usual Poppy Appeal collection and Remembrance services. We were delighted to be able to take a coach of members to the Royal Albert Hall to watch the Festival of Remembrance again and we are already planning for this year.

That is only a snapshot of what we did last year, but as you can see, we are a very busy branch and we are always organising fun and interesting things for our members. If you are interested, please pop along and see what we are about and consider joining us as a member.



03

BRANCH QUIZ EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Friday at 7pm.
Page Community Association.

£2pp. Teams of up to 6.

Buffet & raffle available on the night!



04

BRANCH BREAKFAST GUESTS MUST PREBOOK

Saturday 10am.
The Lamb Inn, Mangotsfield.

Only £5 for a full English with tea or coffee.

Call Jodie on 07833262389.

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY

Why should you join our branch?

- We like to have fun whilst serving our beneficiaries
- Throughout the year we have quizzes, guest speakers and games nights!
- We support the Armed Forces, veterans and their families locally
- We have several exciting trips away

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

So, what are you waiting for?

Pop along or call Aileen on 07787733970.



BRANCH B Only

Booking is essential

First Saturday of at the Lamb

If you're a veteran, serving can't afford the breakfast or us know as we may

COST OF LIVING SUPPORT

Because we know how tough times are now, especially with the large increases to the cost of living everyone is experiencing, the RBL launched a cost of living grants programme.

The programme was designed to allow us to assist those who needed help in a quick and easy way with everyday essentials such as kitchen appliances, clothes, and energy costs.

Officially launched back in October, it proved immediately popular — and The RBL received more than 1,600 applications in the first two weeks alone.

Although application rates have now steadied, the RBL are averaging around 290 applications a week, and as of 30th November a massive 3,274 applications have been received.

The RBL are monitoring the application volumes and the value awarded closely. All new applications submitted after 1st December will initially be considered for six months of support for energy costs on their first application.



This is to make sure that the RBL can help as many people as possible, bearing in mind the cost of living will likely cause great hardship for a few years yet. The RBL have also commissioned an internal audit on the initial month of the programme's delivery to provide assurance that we have robust governance processes in place.

The programme is open to anyone who is eligible for our support who is struggling to pay for items and services they need. Visit our cost of living grants web page, to apply online. www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-support/financial-and-employment-support/finance/grants/cost-of-living-grants.

Just a bit of fun...

His Majesty The King was carrying out an inspection of troops returning from operations...

Standing smartly in front of him were a soldier, a sailor and an airman. As he walked down the line he asked each of them "what would one do if one found a camel spider in one's tent".

The soldier barked "I would leap on it immediately and kill it with my bayonet, sir."

The sailor responded "I would crush it to death with one of my boots, sir."

The airman replied "Well Your Majesty, I would rise from my bed, pick up the phone, call reception and ask them why on earth there was a tent in my room."



BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL TATTOO

Sunday 1030am.

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Tickets are only £48pp.

Includes coach travel and gold standard tickets. Call Ian on 07950104450.



GUEST SPEAKER ALIEN WORLDS - SPACE DETECTIVES

Friday at 7pm.
Page Community Association.

03

Buffet & raffle tickets available on the night!

BREAKFAST

£5 PP



- call 07833262389

of every month

Inn, 10am

member or widow(er) and need transport, please let us be able to help.



Join us in Europe

This is the perfect introduction to the First World War battlefields, looking at the key battlefield sites of the Great War on the Western Front in Belgium and France. We take trips to the battlefield areas of Ypres and the Somme. This is a memorable trip to understand the First World War and a perfect way to begin your battlefield journey.

The price is from **£379pp** (based on two sharing) twin/double room.

Contact Ian on 07950104450 for info.

The price includes:

- All travel
- 3 nights hotel accommodation & breakfast
- Specialist battlefield guide

Key sites include:

- Tyne Cot Cemetery
- Ploegsteert Memorial
- Menin Gate
- The Last Post Ceremony
- Thiepval Memorial
- Plus much more...

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 07833262389.



Thank you to all our collectors!

Once again, our branch and the community have been out and about raising funds for the 2022 Poppy Appeal. We would like to thank all of our collectors, helpers, schools and businesses for taking part.

So, what have we raised so far?

- Sainsbury's Emersons Green - £19,019.00
- Tesco Staple Hill - £7,218.71
- Co-Op Downend - £1,056.91
- Morisons Fishponds - £6,852.41
- All other collections - £10,200.02

If you would like to help with our Poppy Appeal in 2023, please contact Ian



Do you need support?

Here in the branch we have our very own Branch Community Support Officer, Jodie Chilcott. Jodie leads a group of volunteers that support veterans, serving personnel and their families.

This can be anything from visiting someone at home or in hospital, a telephone chat or other forms of support.

If you or someone you know needs support, please contact **Jodie on 07833262389**.

Coach Trips 2023

15 APR - PORTSMOUTH NAVAL YARD

Contact Lynn for more information and prices.



21-25 SEP - BATTLEFIELDS TOUR

Includes 3-nights accommodation with breakfast and coach travel.

More information on our website - www.staplehillrbl.org.uk.

From £379pp

11 NOV - FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE

Royal Albert Hall, London.

More info to follow.



For more information or details of other 2023 trips, please contact our Social Secretary, **Lynn Chilcott on 07795035929** or **visit our website**.

Useful Numbers

Branch Chairman / General queries
Ian Campbell 07950104450

To join the branch
0800 307 7773

Branch Membership Queries
Aileen Hulin 07787733970

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

Local Community Support
Jodie Chilcott 07833262389

Staplehillrbl@gmail.com

Staplehillrbl.org.uk

07950104450



StapleHillRBL