

2026
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STAPLE HILL & DISTRICT COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



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



Welcome to our Community Newsletter!

As we move into the final months of the year, it's been another busy and rewarding period for the branch, with members turning out in strength for trips, events and community occasions alike.

Back in June, South Gloucestershire Armed Forces Day at Page Park was a real highlight of our calendar, and this year's event was one of the best yet. Seeing the community come together to celebrate and support our serving personnel and veterans was fantastic, and none of it would have been possible without the hard work of our committee behind the scenes. A huge thank you to everyone involved in the planning and running of the day — your

efforts made it a success.

We've also enjoyed some memorable trips together as a branch. Our visit to Normandy was a poignant and powerful experience, walking the beaches and battlefields where so much history was made and so much was sacrificed. In the summer, we also had a fascinating trip to Bletchley Park, learning more about the codebreakers whose work shaped the course of the Second World War. And more recently, our visit to Portsmouth gave us the chance to explore its naval heritage and connect with the rich maritime history that means so much to so many of our members.

As we look towards the end of 2026, I want to say a heartfelt thank you to all

our members, our local councillors, and the many supporters who have stood behind our branch throughout the year. Your generosity, time and commitment are what make everything we do possible, from remembrance services to social events to supporting veterans in our community.

Here's to finishing the year on a high, and we look forward to another successful and busy 2027 with plenty more opportunities to get involved.

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

A Memorable Visit and New Friends Made in Normandy

In September, a group of us headed over to Normandy, and what an incredible trip it turned out to be. From the moment we arrived, it was clear this was going to be something special, and it more than lived up to every expectation.

We spent our days visiting the museums and memorials, and walking the beaches where history was made. There's really no preparing for what that feels like in person. You can read about it your whole life, but standing on that sand, looking out at the water, thinking about what happened there... it catches you off guard. A few of us went quiet for a while. It's that kind of place, and it left a mark on every one of us.

But it wasn't all solemn, far from it. We had the loveliest time with our friends at the Normandy Branch, who welcomed us like old mates rather than visitors from across

the Channel. They sat us down to a proper lunch, filled with good food, better company, and plenty of laughter, the kind of afternoon that reminds you why these connections matter so much. New friendships were made, and we're already looking forward to seeing them again.

A huge thank you must go to Ian and Val, who did a brilliant job driving the minibuses and got us there and back safely, we couldn't have done it without you both.

All in all, this was one of the best trips we've been on as a branch, and we came home already talking about doing it again. We're hoping to make this a yearly tradition, and if that sounds like something you'd fancy joining, come along to our November meeting - we'd love to tell you more, and even better, we'd love to have you with us next time.



Armed Forces Day Back in Staple Hill!

What a wonderful day it was for South Gloucestershire Armed Forces Day, with the local community turning out in force to show their support for our Armed Forces, past and present.

Staple Hill & District Branch was delighted to be part of it, running a stall on the day where we had the chance to meet and chat with so many local residents. From families out enjoying the day to veterans sharing their stories, it was a real pleasure to connect with people from right across our community and talk about the work we do together.

The event brought people of all ages and backgrounds together, and it was fantastic to see

that spirit of togetherness in action. We were also proud to help fund the Armed Forces Reception, joining forces with Leidos to make sure the occasion was one to remember for everyone involved.

Days like this remind us just how much our community values and supports its Armed Forces family. Seeing so many people come along, get involved, and share in the occasion was a real highlight.

Thank you to everyone in our community who made the day so special.



TRIP TO RAF BENSON & RAF HIGH WYCOMBE

Join us for an exciting day out to RAF Benson and RAF High Wycombe on **Wednesday 14 October**, a unique destination that brings decades of Royal Air Force history to life. Set at the heart of Britain's aviation heritage, these stations offer an unforgettable experience for visitors of all ages.

Home to some of the most storied squadrons and exhibits in RAF history, the visit provides a fascinating glimpse into the lives, stories, and achievements of those who served in the air.

£15 for members // £20 for non-members

Book at www.staplehillrbl.org.uk/events

Seats are limited and expected to sell quickly,



QUIZ NIGHT

Friday at 7:30pm.
Page Community Association

04

£2pp with CASH PRIZES!

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



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday at 7:30pm.

Page Community Association

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Everyone is welcome to come and hear what we have been doing over the past year.

Buffet & raffle tickets available on the night **wel-**



NORMANDY PRESENTATION

Friday at 7:30pm.
Page Community Association

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Pop along and hear about our incredible trip to Normandy and what we have planned for 2027!



CHRISTMAS PARTY AND MEAL

Friday at 7:30pm.

Page Community Association

04

Raffle tickets available on the night

Everyone is welcome - booking via the website.

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY

Why should you join our branch?

- We are one of the largest branches in the local area
- 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.



Join us for our



POPPY
BALL

Saturday 10 October 2026

Tickets £30/£35pp

**INCLUDES A TWO/THREE-COURSE
MEAL AND ENTERTAINMENT**



BRANCH BREAKFAST

The branch meets at the Lamb Inn, Mangotsfield to chat, have a laugh and enjoy a tasty English breakfast!

Only £7.50pp - Includes a cooked breakfast and unlimited tea and coffee

First Saturday of the month at 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!

LEGION LADIES

Fancy some good company and a friendly chat? Come along to our monthly get-together.

Whether you're a familiar face or brand new to the area, all ladies are welcome - just bring yourself, we'll provide the tea and conversation.

**First Wednesday of the month at 1.30pm
at the YOUFoundation.**



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 **Kerry** on **07748212501**.



Volunteer Spotlight

Graham Hitchings



This quarter, we're proud to shine a spotlight on Graham Hitchings.

Graham served in the RAF during the 1950s and has been a longstanding member of our branch. Over the years he's given his time generously as a poppy appeal collector and as our branch standard bearer.

Graham's commitment to the branch runs deep. Back in 2019, he was instrumental in helping us reform the branch, ensuring the Legion's presence continued in our community. More recently, he was given the special opportunity to revisit his old base at RAF Benson, a moving trip back to where his service began.

Graham remains a familiar and much-loved face at our branch socials and trips, always happy to share stories and support fellow

members.

Through decades of service and dedication, Graham embodies the enduring spirit of the Royal British Legion, and we're incredibly grateful for everything he continues to give to our branch.

Want to be like Graham? Join us as a volunteer today.



Coach Trips 2027



Below you can find details of our suggested trips for 2027. More information will be sent out following the Annual General Meeting.

February - Blists Victorian Town - Telford

07-09 May - RBL Annual Conference, Telford

May - National Memorial Arboretum

June - Bletchley Park and Gardens

August - Windsor Castle and Gardens

September - Normandy/Ypres

December - Bath Christmas Market and REME Museum



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



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
Kerry Weaver 07748212501

Coach Trips
Ian Campbell 07950104450

StapleHillrbl@gmail.com

StapleHillrbl.org.uk

07950104450



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