

2026
JANUARY-APRIL

STAPLE HILL & DISTRICT COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Volunteer Spotlight

Norman Low



This month, we are proud to shine a spotlight on Norman Low, whose dedication to the Royal British Legion spans many years and has made a lasting impact at both branch and county level.

Norman has held several roles on our Branch Committee and has also served at Gloucestershire County, where he is now deservedly recognised as a Life Vice President. His commitment to remembrance remains as strong as ever.

Each year, Norman carefully organises the laying of crosses on the Christchurch Commonwealth War Graves, working closely with the church to ensure those who gave their lives are honoured and never forgotten.

In recognition of his outstanding community service, Norman was recently

presented with a letter of thanks from the Secretary of State for Defence, forwarded by our local MP, Claire Hazelgrove.

Norman's quiet dedication, humility, and unwavering support for the Legion embodies everything our organisation stands for.



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

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**.



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!

Sunday 03 May
National Memorial Arboretum

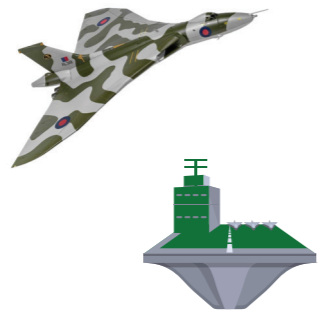
The weekend of 08-10 May
RBL Annual Conference, Brighton

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



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



Welcome to our Community Newsletter!

As we move further into 2026, I would like to take a moment to thank all our members and volunteers for their continued support to the branch and wider RBL community.

We had a brilliant end to 2025. Members came together for our annual Christmas meal and celebrated what had been a wonderful centenary year.

The start of 2026 has already been a busy and proud time for the branch. We have taken a trip to the RAF Museum and Imperial War Museum in London. We were honoured to be recognised at the South

Gloucestershire Community Awards, and I would like to once again congratulate our Vice-Chair, Di Roberts, on her well-deserved Community Hero Award. The branch were also recognised for our 100 years of local community support. This recognition reflects the commitment shown by so many of our members.

Planning is also well underway for South Glos Armed Forces Day 2026, which promises to be another fantastic community event. These occasions do not happen without considerable effort, and I am grateful to everyone who is already contributing their time and energy.

Remembrance remains at the heart of everything we do, and we will continue to

honour those who served while supporting today's veterans. With this in mind, planning is underway for a service to commemorate the 15 years anniversary of the end of Operation TELIC, we will update the community when a date has been announced.

We have lots of activities and trips planned for this year and everyone is welcome to come and join us. By becoming a member of our branch, you help the wider armed forces community and keep our branch alive for the veterans of the future that will undoubtedly need our support!

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

StapleHillRBL

Preparations Underway for South Glos Armed Forces Day 2026

Planning is well underway for South Glos Armed Forces Day 2026, which is being organised by the South Glos Armed Forces Day Committee. We are proud to continue to support and promote this important local event.

Armed Forces Day remains a highlight of the local calendar, bringing together serving personnel, veterans, cadets, and the wider community to celebrate the service and sacrifice of our Armed Forces. The day will feature a full programme of activities, including military vehicles, community stalls, displays, and entertainment.

A key part of the event will be the Armed Forces Day parade, and veterans and cadets are warmly encouraged to take part. Those wishing to march are asked to register in advance to help

organisers plan the parade and ensure everyone is properly accommodated.

Members of the Armed Forces community are also invited to attend the free Armed Forces VIP Reception. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet fellow veterans, serving personnel, and guests before the main event begins. Advance booking is required, and places are limited.

Further details, including how to register for the parade and book the VIP Reception, will be available via the event website and branch communications.

We hope to see many of our members there supporting what promises to be another memorable and meaningful day.



Staple Hill RBL Shines at South Gloucestershire Community Awards

Staple Hill & District Branch of the Royal British Legion was proud to be recognised at the recent South Gloucestershire Community Awards.

The ceremony was celebrating the outstanding contribution of local volunteers and organisations.

Representing the branch on the evening were Branch Chair Ian Campbell, Vice-Chair Di Roberts, and Branch President, Councillor Ian Boulton. It was a wonderful opportunity to showcase the work of our branch and the difference our volunteers make within the community.



A special highlight of the evening was Di Roberts receiving a Community Hero Award, recognising her many years of dedicated service, particularly her leadership in organising our annual Remembrance Day service and parade. This honour reflects her tireless commitment to remembrance and to supporting the Armed Forces community.

We are extremely proud of Di and grateful to all our members and volunteers whose efforts continue to make our branch such an important part of the local community.

Trip to Bletchley Park

Join us for a fascinating day out to Bletchley Park, the historic home of the World War II code breakers.

This is a fantastic opportunity to walk in the footsteps of the men and women who helped change the course of the war, explore the huts and exhibitions, and discover the secrets of Britain's code breaking past.

£30 for members // £35 for non-members

Please note: This price is for coach travel only. Entry to Bletchley Park must be booked separately online in advance.

Book at www.staplehillrbl.org.uk/events

Seats are limited and expected to sell quickly.



QUIZ NIGHT

Friday at 7:30pm.
Page Community Association

02

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



BRANCH SOCIAL

Friday at 7:30pm.
Page Community Association

06

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



GUEST SPEAKER 'LIZ FERGUSON' WITH FISH & CHIPS

Friday at 7:30pm.
Page Community Association

06

Raffle tickets available on the night
Everyone is welcome - booking via the website.



ST GEORGE'S QUIZ NIGHT

Friday at 7:30pm.
Page Community Association

03

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

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.



SOUTH GLOS ARMED FORCES DAY

Page Park, Staple Hill
20 June 2026 (10:30am-4pm)

With veterans, military personnel and cadets parading through Staple Hill with a VIP reception for serving personnel and veterans.

Followed by live music, displays, fairground rides, military vehicles, trade stalls and much more!

Scan for more info



Visit SouthGlosAFD.com for more information or to sign up to the Armed Forces Reception



BRANCH BREAKFAST

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

Everyone is welcome to join us.

Only £7pp - Includes a cooked breakfast and unlimited tea and coffee

Saturday 07 February 10am

Saturday 07 March 10am

Saturday 04 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!

