

# GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY NEWSLETTER



## REMEMBERING VJ DAY 76 YEARS ON

**Is it just me that feels the year quickly leaving us or is it the fact we are getting busier and busier?**

In July, I had the pleasure of being invited to Lydney for a branch meeting. It was wonderful to meet old friends and new and to get out there again.

As your meetings return to face to face or you are having any events, please remember to let me know, county committee members are looking forward to getting around and meeting you all.

As we move into the "sunny" month of August and we are starting to be able to meet in larger groups, I urge you to follow the guidelines that are coming out from HQ. Although we

would like to go back to face to face, we must remember that the risks haven't gone away, we must continue to protect ourselves and take into account that some people may still wish to wear masks and socially distance.

I have seen many branches are starting to look towards the future for trips and events. Please continue to send your invites into county and we will attend and help where we can. I must say, it's great to see some of the plans starting to take shape!

August brings with it the anniversary of Victory over Japan. Last year I was honoured to attend local services,

that not all of our members were able to take part in sadly. Thank you to the branches that organised something and I am sure more will happen this year.



A few days ago, the Poppy Appeal Organisers got together with Wendy Holt to hear about the plans for this year. Please speak with your PAOs and see what support you can offer them over the coming

weeks and months in the run up to the Appeal.

All the best.

*Jackie*



48 Number of current branches in Gloucestershire

£495,639 Amount raised locally (so far) for the Poppy Appeal

2,048 Members in Gloucestershire

# An update from your MSOs



July has been an informative month as the welfare service delivery and future ways of working was explained at a County/District Chairs Town hall meeting earlier this month.

A proposal to transfer Membership Support Officers (MSOs) to the Membership Directorate was announced and you will be updated over the next few months regarding the recruitment of a new permanent MSO for Gloucestershire.

August is looking to be a good month as further government restrictions are due to be lifted in England later this month and branches are resuming normal activities. Current guidance on what the general public can do is available on the Government website: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/>

[covid-19-coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do](#). Further advice about resuming branch activities from Karolina Brezka is also available in this newsletter.

Please continue the work you have already done on your branch accounts, and if you have any questions or concerns – please do get in touch with us or email the teams at

[lomashelpdesk@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:lomashelpdesk@britishlegion.org.uk) or [branchaccounts@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:branchaccounts@britishlegion.org.uk)

Thank you

*Kate and Andy*

## COUNTY MOTIONS & AWARDS

If you would like to submit a motion to the conference in January or an application for an award, please make sure they are sent to [gloucestershire.chairman@rbl.community](mailto:gloucestershire.chairman@rbl.community) by the 23rd of October 2021.



## COUNTY COMMITTEE MEETING

All members are welcome to attend. There will be an opportunity to submit questions before the meeting and ask questions at the start of the meeting.

# 12

[Click here to join](#)

## STOKE GIFFORD OUT AND ABOUT

The Stoke Gifford branch have been busy raising money for the Poppy Appeal as well as organising events for the remainder of 2021.

At the end of July, the branch came together at Little Stoke for the local carboot sale. The community turned out in support and the branch made a fantastic £107!

The branch would like to thank Tony Peters and all volunteers that came out to help on the day.

We have several events coming up for 2021:

- 4 September - Fun day at the Civil Service club in Filton.
- 13 November - Festival of Remembrance with Filton Brass Band, the Bristol Military Wives Choir. More information will be on our [Facebook Page](#)

**Pictured:** Poppy Appeal Organisers Tony Peters and John Maloney with Branch Chairman Ian Harrison and David Bell.



2

- 14 August - Bradley Stoke Picnic in the Park. The branch will be attending with a stand.

# CENTENARY TEA WITH KEMBLE

Kemble and District RBL and Women's Section enjoyed a Centenary tea in a member's garden on the 16th July.

Sadly because of restricted numbers to adhere with government restrictions, friends/partners couldn't join us for the occasion. That said the branch hope that later in the year they can have an 'open-house' event.

Nevertheless it was a glorious afternoon with a delicious tea. Major Austin Hind gave a champagne toast to the RBL thanking members present for their loyalty to the branch and to the organisation as a whole. All the costs for this event was covered by a generous donation to the branch to spend it on the members from



the family of a past member:

The guest speaker was Rachel Markwick, a very talented lady who brought along her lovely exhibits and explained the process of making pictures from used postage stamps which intrigued the guests.

The attached photo shows members listening to Rachel before the tea was served to them. Fun

was had as the plates, when empty, had to be turned over to discover a lucky raffle ticket!

# VETERANS' LUNCH

The City of Bristol Branch of the RAF Association have started their popular lunches once again.

The two course lunch cost only £6pp and are held for all veterans and their spouses, dependents or widow(er)s.

They take place at the RAFA Club in Westbury-on-Trym on the second Wednesday of the month from 12 until 3pm.

Contact Tony Peters on 07971242845 for more information or to book a lunch.



## COUNTY TRAINING OFFICER

I am collecting a list of all members who require branch treasurer training. This list is then going to national trainers.

If you have a treasurer that you would like adding to the new Learning Management System (LMS), I will need the following information:

Name / Branch / Membership number and email address.

I also need to know if they are new or have been in post for some time but have never received the training. Thank you.

Anna - gloucestershire.cto@rbl.community

## A BIT OF A JOKE

A young woman was standing outside her car weeping. A soldier walks up and asks what the problem is.

It turns out she's locked her keys in the car.

"Simple," says the soldier and drops their trousers, takes them off, rolls them into a ball and rubs them on the door.

The door pops open.

"How did you do that?!" exclaimed the young woman.

"Easy," says the soldier, "These are my khakis."

## JOIN STAPLE HILL ON THE CONTINENT

The Staple Hill and District branch would like to invite members and potential members on their 2022 trips to France and Belgium.

There are two trips to choose from, the Battlefields of World War I and a festive cruise to Antwerp.

More details can be found on the branch website [www.staplehillrbl.org.uk](http://www.staplehillrbl.org.uk) or contact their chairman, Ian Campbell on 07950104450.

A promotional graphic for a World War I Battlefields trip. It features a collage of images: a grand stone archway at night, a large stone building with a spire, a battlefield with a trench, and a cemetery with white headstones. A red box in the center contains the text: "TRAVEL WITH US TO THE WORLD WAR I BATTLEFIELDS 30th September 2022". Below the images, it says "THE IMPORTANT BITS" and lists "Coach travel to Ypres + 3 nights bed &amp; breakfast" and "Includes a specialist tour guide". At the bottom, it says "From £369pp" and includes the RBL logo and contact information: "07950104450 StapleHillRBL.org.uk".

# UPDATE FROM HAIG HOUSE

With restrictions gradually loosening across the four nations, we feel that it is now appropriate for all activities, including all elements of Branch Community Support, to resume. As always, branches must follow the government guidelines relevant to the area they take place in.

We also know that some people are going to remain anxious and cautious about resuming interactions so can we please ask that:

- Prior to any meeting you conduct a risk assessment which takes into consideration the number of people, ventilation, cleaning and hand sanitation;
- You show consideration towards those members and volunteers who may not feel comfortable as yet about face-to-face interactions;

- If you are holding small group meetings and activities, we suggest you are guided by the most cautious in the group. For example, if an individual wishes to wear a mask and social distance, the whole group complies so that all feel safe and comfortable;
- Your MSOs can now meet you face-to-face as long as it complies with local government guidelines and as long as they feel comfortable doing so;

Under the Branch Community Support scheme - when conducting face to face meetings with the people you support – be guided by their feelings and approach to their safety and adjust your plans and actions accordingly;

Outside is still better than inside, so wherever possible try to arrange meetings and activities outside, making the most of the summer weather.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

This has been a difficult month to gather stories from around the County. Please help me keep the newsletter going by providing details and pictures from all of your events throughout the year.

As I work fulltime I won't have the time to trawl social media for stories, but if you have a story on social media, just send me a link and I will use it, if it is long enough.

Many thanks in advance.

Ian

## POPPY APPEAL UPDATE

We are looking to fill some gaps in Gloucestershire, South Gloucestershire and Bristol.

Current vacancies are in: Temple Quarter, Cabot Circus, the Galleries, Minsterworth, Lydbrook and North Cerney.

If you are interested, please contact

**Wendy Holt (Bristol & South Glos)**  
wholt@britishlegion.org.uk

**Sarah Jones (Gloucestershire)**  
skjones@britishlegion.org.uk



## County Committee (2021-2022)

**President - Gp Capt (rtd) Anny Reid OBE ARRC (non voting)**

**Life Vice-President - Norman Low (non voting)**

**Chairman - Jackie Robertson**

**Vice-Chairman - John Moloney**

**Secretariat - Ian Harrison (non voting)**

**Independent Examiner - Charles Tippet (non voting)**

**Treasurer - James Brimble**

**Recruitment & Publicity - Ian Campbell**

**Poppy Appeal Co-ordinator - Anna Acott**

**Clubs Liaison Officer - Chris Boskett**

**Training Officer - Anna Acott**

**Community Support Reporting Officer - John Moloney**

**Youth Officer - James Brimble**

**Parade Marshal - Carole Hoban (non voting)**

**Standard Bearer - Bob Perkins**

**Committee Member - Kate Reynolds**

**Committee Member - Allen Warren**

**Committee Member - Kay Scase**

[Click here for contact details.](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Gloucestershiremso@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:Gloucestershiremso@britishlegion.org.uk)

[www.counties.britishlegion.co.uk/counties/gloucestershire](http://www.counties.britishlegion.co.uk/counties/gloucestershire)



RBLGlos