

Centenary tributes

In recent weeks we have featured many of the events taking place in and around the area to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War which is on Sunday 11th November. Here is a round-up of what else is happening in the coming days.

32 knitted poppies represent villagers killed in the Great War

A garland of 32 knitted poppies has been placed on the war memorial in St Mary's churchyard in Bitton - one for each of the 32 villagers who died in the First World War. The Bitton & Oldland Branch of the Royal British Legion will join the congregation at the 10.30am service at the church on Remembrance Sunday, along with MP Chris Skidmore, the chair of Bitton Parish Council Cllr Jane Allinson, Cadets from the Army Cadet Force and members of St Mary's Bitton Scout Group.

During the service there will be an Act of Remembrance around the war memorial where wreaths will be laid.



Wear a poppy and ride for free on Remembrance Sunday

Poppy wearers, as well as serving Armed Forces personnel, Cadets and veterans, will be able to travel free on Remembrance Sunday on First buses.

The bus company's offer aims to encourage people to attend commemorative events to mark 100 years since Armistice Day

As part of the bus operator's support for Remembrance Sunday, many buses will also have poppies fitted on the exterior of the vehicle.

Stagecoach West is also providing free travel to serving and former service personnel on Remembrance Sunday.



Remembrance parade returns to Staple Hill

The Staple Hill Remembrance parade, which was cancelled last year following the closure of the British Legion's local branch, returns this year.

Thanks to a crowdfunding campaign which was organised by the Women's Section of the British Legion, the Staple Hill Regeneration Partnership and the Salvation Army's Staple Hill Citadel, more than £600 was raised to cover the costs of staging the parade.

It will leave the High Street on Sunday 11th November at 10.30am and pass along Broad Street, arriving at Page Park in time for the Remembrance service and the two minute silence at 11am.

In the late afternoon the Annual Festival of Remembrance will take place at 5pm at Staple Hill Salvation Army where the band, choir and children will lead a further act of Remembrance followed by a concert.

Garden of poppies

To mark the centenary of Armistice Day, Kingswood primary schools Beacon Rise and Courtney, New Horizons Learning Centre and Holy Trinity Church have worked together to create a Garden of Poppies using resources provided by South Gloucestershire's centenary project.

The garden at the church in Kingswood High Street will be formally opened this Saturday (10th) at 1pm and will remain open until Sunday 25th November.

Poetry reading

justWords Ltd is donating 20 copies of Thomas Albert Fox's preliminary edition of 'The Haig Poppy: 8/4' in support of Keynsham Arts Consortium's 'Requiem' at The Space in Keynsham this Friday (9th) at 7.30pm. Fox (aka Terry Edwards) will present readings from his own work on a Gurney, Sassoon and Kipling theme, concluding with his song 'Anthem to the Wall'. Included in the readings will be Fox's 'Cenotaph'.

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