

WORCESTERSHIRE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT



June 2014

WELCOME

Welcome to the latest newsletter from the Worcestershire Armed Forces Community Covenant Partnership.

This month marks our second anniversary and looking back over that time I have been immensely proud of what we have all achieved since signing the Covenant back on 29 June 2012.

Looking forward there are a number of events coming up over the next six months that we hope you can join us in supporting. These include an evening concert for Armed Forces Day on 28 June and Worcester Artillery Day on 16 August.

Hot off the press we have just been informed that the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regimental Association have been awarded £1,900 from the Covenant Grant Scheme towards an event to be held in Gheluvelt Park, Worcester on 31 October to mark the unveiling of a new memorial to the men and women who served in the regiment.

And finally I am pleased to share our new promotional displays which were also funded through the Covenant Grant Scheme. You can see them on display at the forthcoming events highlighted or if you would like to use them for your own events or to help increase awareness amongst your staff please get in touch with us by email at wafcc@worcestershire.gov.uk.

Rob Adams



Cllr Rob Adams

Chair of Worcestershire Armed Forces Community Covenant Partnership

FUNDING NEWS IN BRIEF

Covenant Grant Scheme

There are only two more opportunities to apply for funding through the scheme. Applications need to be made through the Covenant Partnership to ensure that the project meets the grant criteria and local requirement before they can be submitted to a regional panel for consideration. The next regional panel meeting will take place in October 2014 and applications must be submitted to us by no later than **29 August 2014**.

For more information on applying for funding visit www.worcestershirepartnership.org.uk or contact Worcestershire Partnership Relationship Manager, Alan Smith by email at asmith3@worcestershire.gov.uk or call him on 01905 822836.

WYCHAVON WW1 CENTENARY GRANT

A new grant fund from Wychavon District Council is set to help community groups, schools, parish councils and other local organisations commemorate the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of World War One.



Wychavon has a total of £5,000 to award to groups that are organising projects that mark the centenary of the start of the First World War through community participation. There is a maximum of £250 per project and the funds must be used for events that both contribute to and involve the local community in some way.

Community involvement might take the form of a drama performance, an exhibition inspired by or commemorating soldiers from the local village or town, a poetry class or a remembrance event.

Tracy Grubb, Community Development Officer at Wychavon District Council, said: “We know lots of people are planning some sort of commemoration, but equally some people may want to do something but are worried that they won’t have the funds to make it happen.

“We hope that our grant will encourage them to get together with their local community and look to organise a workshop, a performance of some sort or an exhibition. Whatever the project is, the most important things to remember are that it should be relevant to local people and that it should involve as many people as possible.”

For the full details of how to apply, call Tracy Grubb on 01386 565168 or email tracy.grubb@wychavon.gov.uk. Alternatively go to www.wychavon.gov.uk/community-funding and fill out the online request form.

The fund will be available until the final £250 has been allocated to an event or project – so don’t delay, apply today.

HOMES FOR HEROES

Rooftop Housing Group are pleased to advise you of the new homes that they are currently building at the former Norton Barracks site at Crookbarrow Road Norton, near Worcester, Worcestershire WR5 2PA. These 10 brand new homes are “Homes for Heroes”, with priority being given to applicants with a connection to H M Forces.

The properties which will be available for occupation in the autumn of this year are:

- 2 no 3 Bedroom family houses for Affordable Rent
- 2 no 3 Bedroom family houses for Shared Ownership
- 4 no 1 Bedroom ground floor flats for Affordable Rent
- 2 no 2 Bedroom first floor flats for Affordable Rent



Their intention is to be able to offer all of these new homes to applicants with a connection to H M Forces. For this reason they are contacting as many organisations as possible who may have dealings with potential applicants to advise them of the availability of these new homes.

You can download a copy of the brochure which gives further details of the development and also explains the eligibility criteria and the application process by going to Rooftop Housing Group’s website www.rooftopgroup.org. The brochure may be found by entering Norton Barracks into the search box and then click on Development Brochures

UNIFORM TO WORK DAY

Reservists across the country will wear their Service uniforms to work with pride in celebration of the annual Uniform to Work Day on Wednesday 25 June, in the run up to the sixth annual Armed Forces Day on Saturday 28 June.

Thousands of Reservists across the country - from gardeners to city workers - will hang up their usual work clothes and proudly don their Service uniforms to demonstrate the huge contribution that ordinary citizens can make to the Armed Forces. It also allows Reservists to show their employers how much they value the support they receive.



Reservists come from every walk of life and from communities up and down the country. Many of those wearing their uniforms will have deployed on at least one tour of duty to operational theatres such as Afghanistan, and their invaluable experience and skills gained through their Service jobs directly benefit employers.

If you are a Reservist and will be wearing your uniform to work on Wednesday 25 June, you can take a picture of yourself in uniform in your workplace and email it to armedforcesdayuk@gmail.com for inclusion on their Facebook and Twitter pages.

If you are interested in a career in any of the Reserve Forces visit <https://www.gov.uk/joining-the-reserve-forces>

Worcestershire County Council is one of the many organisations supporting the annual Uniform to Work Day and is encouraging others to get involved. You can download a PDF of the [Uniform to Work Day poster](#) to print and display at your place of work, or if you are a Reservist at your unit.

What are the UK Reserve Forces?

The UK Reserve Forces are made up of members of the public who train, work and deploy with their counterparts in the full time regular services, and are an essential and integral part of the UK's defence capability.

The UK's Reserve Forces, represented in by the Royal Naval Reserve, Royal Marine Reserve, Territorial Army and Royal Air Force Reserves make a significant contribution to the nation's defence and security.

For more information visit the following websites:

[Royal Naval Reserves](#)
[Royal Marine Reserves](#)
[Territorial Army Reserves](#)
[Royal Air Force Reserves](#)



EVENING CONCERT

with Worcester
Concert Brass



in support of
Armed Forces Day

at Worcester Guildhall
7:30pm on Saturday 28th June



Doors open at 7pm (a cash bar is available)

Tickets cost £5 and are available from:
Worcester Tourist Information Centre
at The Guildhall, High Street, Worcester



Sponsored by Music 4 Heroes, Worcestershire
Armed Forces Community Covenant
Partnership and Worcestershire County Council



SUPPORTING THOSE SERVING, RESERVES, VETERANS, AND THEIR FAMILIES

SSAFA is a charity providing lifelong support to anyone who is serving or has ever served in the British Armed Forces and their families. Every year their network of volunteers and professional staff provides advice and support for around 50,000 people. Its services range from care for those bereaved through recent conflicts to befriending those whose who served during WWII.

A regional network of over 7,000 trained volunteers, throughout the UK and on military bases around the world, means that support is always close at hand, whenever and wherever it is needed.

Colonel Tony Ward OBE, Worcestershire Branch Chairman, says that people are coming to SSAFA in increasingly dire circumstances.

“Those who have recently left the military can find the civilian world a very confusing place, add in mental health issues and things can quickly spiral out of control.”

At SSAFA we know how difficult the transition from military to civilian life can be. When former soldier John Wyatt completed his military service and commenced work as a lorry driver he could not have imagined that one of the roads he would take would lead him to depression and debt.

John's troubles started during one of his tours as an Air Defence Gunner in the Royal Artillery. After



witnessing five of his colleagues being killed in a terrorist attack on their vehicle he began a downward spiral into post-traumatic stress syndrome (PTSD), which ultimately lead to debt, marriage break up and thoughts of suicide.

Finally, realising he needed help, John went to the Citizens Advice Bureau who advised him to contact SSAFA. After calling his local branch office, John was allocated a volunteer caseworker, who immediately got on the case and contacted the Royal Artillery Association who helped to

clear John's debts. He was also advised to contact Combat Stress who helped him work through his depression and PTSD.

John is now a changed man. He sees his children every weekend, his work is going well and his debts have been cleared. John said “SSAFA and the Royal Artillery have given me the ability to help myself again. They have given me a leg up onto the right track making me independent, and I have also regained my self-esteem.”

If you would like to find out more about SSAFA, whether it's to help you or someone you know or if you would like to learn more about volunteering, call **01905 21728** or e-mail worcestershire@ssafa.org.uk.



**Lifelong support
for our Forces
and their families**

ARMY HIVE INFORMATION SERVICE

The Army HIVE Information Service aims to respond swiftly and efficiently to enquiries from anyone within the Service community. Enquiries are welcomed from serving personnel, their dependants, partners, extended families, veterans, war widows (ers) and MOD civilians.



The HIVE information Support Officers (HISOs) who manage the HIVE information centres have a wide range of information available, focusing on local area education, housing and accommodation, employment and training opportunities, childcare, travel, leisure and health facilities.

The Army HIVE information service has excellent links with Service and civilian agencies which ensures that up to date, useful and important information is passed on quickly. Close contacts with local civilian authorities and unit staff further ensure that local information is kept current and HIVE has strong links into the work undertaken in support of the Armed Forces Community Covenants.

In addition to the information provision role HISOs are able to confidentially refer people to the right person should you have a need for personal help or support and will feed back to the chain of command concerns on issues affecting the Service community.

The Army HIVE information service is located across the UK; to find your nearest HIVE go to <http://www.army.mod.uk/welfare-support/23438.aspx>

FORCES SUPPORT

Forces Support are a small charity who over the last two years have provided hands on practical work to over 100 bereaved military families in England, Scotland and Wales. They currently have a six-month waiting list of over 50 families. Having recently opened offices in Worcestershire they are hoping with local community help to expand their on the road support team.



In addition to the general maintenance work, Forces Support also recognises the importance of creating recreational space for bereaved families. Head of Fundraising, Peter Alcock explains: "We cannot give a bereaved child the time he/she would have spent with their lost parent but we can provide equipment such as a trampoline and playhouse so that they can spend some recreational time at home".

Peter added "Some of the other ways we are able to help bereaved families is to add a memorial Arbour plaque with special words. In addition we also help lay patios, add garden furniture and a BBQ so a family can spend quality time with friends or each other.

Forces Support urgently requires volunteers to work in their shops located in Worcester, Kidderminster, Leominster, Tenbury Wells and Kingston. If you can help please call them on 01562 742798.

Alternatively if you would like to help by fund raising and can spare a few hours a month please contact Peter on fundraising@forcessupport.co.uk or call him on 07951 143982.

You can follow their work on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ForcesSupportCharity> or by visiting their website at www.forcessupport.org.uk



FORCES SUPPORT

WE ARE THE ONLY UK CHARITY PROVIDING PRACTICAL HANDS ON SUPPORT BY WAY OF GENERAL MAINTENANCE THROUGHOUT THE HOMES AND GARDENS FOR BEREAVED MILITARY FAMILIES.

We provide practical support the lost family member would have done for his or her family and the jobs that have built up while the families have struggled with their loss. Or the jobs that have built up while a family grieves.

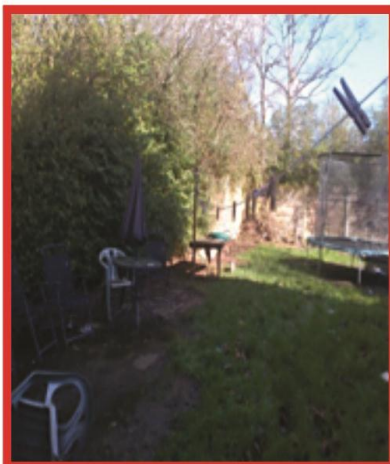
This is the work in the garden we recently completed for the family of Lee Rigby, we also completed the decorating the family had started the week of his death.



Please visit
www.forcessupport.org.uk



**LEE RIGBY WITH
HIS MOTHER LYN
& FATHER IAN**



BEFORE



AFTER

Charity No: 1136954 - CIC No: 7192349

CAVELL NURSES' TRUST

Cavell Nurses' Trust is the largest benevolent fund supporting the UK's 650,000 student, working and retired nurses, midwives and healthcare assistants who need financial help and support following illness, injury, disability and other difficulties.




Nurses are trained to cope with various challenging situations in their day to day employment but are often the last people to seek help for themselves – making our services a vital lifeline. Each application is assessed by our qualified staff. We ensure beneficiaries are receiving all statutory benefits they are entitled to and work with partner organisations to maximise our support and ensure the full needs of the individual are met.

The Trust was established in 1917 in memory of Nurse Edith Cavell who was executed in occupied Belgium in 1915 for helping to save over 200 allied troops. It is "A living legacy of caring and learning" and has provided financial support worth more than £2.5 million over the last five years to thousands of working and retired nurses, health care assistants and student nurses in need. We support Edith's legacy of learning through the provision of our annual Cavell Nurses' Trust Scholarship Awards which recognise future excellence and leadership in student nurses and midwives.

For further information please contact Jean Hayes, Welfare Services Manager, telephone 01527 595999 or email jeanh@cavellnursestrust.org. Our website is www.cavellnursestrust.org





Have you ever
served in any of
the Armed Forces?

Do you have a health
condition or disability?




Are you looking
for employment?

If so, Remploy can help you to find work

Our experienced Armed Forces Champions provide advice and guidance on moving into civilian employment, and can help with:

- CV writing
- Interview practice
- Confidence building
- Searching and applying for jobs, including access to local vacancies with the employers we work with
- Training and skills development
- Disclosing your disability or health condition to employers
- Support once you have started your new job, including advice on reasonable adjustments, where required.

Visit: www.remploveterans.co.uk
or join our online communities

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-  www.facebook.com/Remployveterans
-  www.linkedin.com/groups/Remploy-Veterans-4450762

For more information about this service and how you can access our support, please speak to your local Jobcentre Plus or contact us on:

Remploy

Putting ability first

Eligibility criteria apply.

Ref: 1279

jobcentreplus

Department for
Work and Pensions

LIGHTS OUT

At 11pm on 4 August 1914 Britain declared war on Germany, ushering in one of the darkest periods in our history.

As the moment approached, the British Foreign Secretary Sir Edward Grey made the famous remark: **“The lamps are going out all over Europe; we shall not see them lit again in our life-time”**.

In a dramatic UK-wide event LIGHTS OUT is an invitation to everyone to turn off their lights from 10pm to 11pm on 4th August, leaving on a single light or candle for this shared moment of reflection.

Part of 14-18 NOW, WW1 Centenary Art Commissions, LIGHTS OUT has invited artists to create large-scale, site-specific artworks at locations across the UK. A digital artwork will also be commissioned in response to LIGHTS OUT.

LIGHTS OUT, working closely with the Royal British Legion, will be one of the largest participatory events of its kind ever seen in the UK, and will complement the candlelit vigil held at Westminster Abbey on 4th August.

More will be revealed in the coming weeks. For more information, visit www.1418NOW.org.uk and sign up to their free mailing list.

LIGHTS OUT is commissioned by 14-18 NOW, WW1 Centenary Art Commissions, supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England and the Heritage Lottery Fund



14-18-NOW
WW1 CENTENARY ART COMMISSIONS

Supported using public funding by



LOTTERY FUNDED

£50 FUN FOR FORCES FAMILIES!

The Calvert Trust has a fantastic offer for armed forces families; enjoy a fantastic weekend break including food, accommodation and adventurous activities for just £50 per person!

Breaks are available at all of the Trust's three centres, which are located in Exmoor, on Kielder Water and in the Lake District.

The offer is open to Serving, Reserve and Veteran armed forces families with a disabled Service person, partner or child in the family, for any weekend in 2014, including school holidays.

These special priced breaks are possible thanks to support from the MOD's Armed Forces Covenant (LIBOR) Fund, who are funding places for 120 families this year. Any and every disability is eligible for this support, including physical disabilities, learning disabilities, ADHD, autism and challenging behaviour, visual or hearing impairment and post-traumatic stress disorder.



Lt Col (Retired) Tony Potter, CEO of Calvert Trust Exmoor and LIBOR project leader for The Calvert Trust; "we feel privileged that our project 'Uniting Service families with disabilities' has been selected by the MOD. The Calvert Trust already has a proven track record cooperating with many Armed Forces Charities; we are relishing the opportunity to help and support as many families as we can through our programme of adventurous activity breaks at our 3 Centres'.

Exmoor and Kielder Centres are offering these breaks for any weekend in 2014; the Lake District Centre has specific dates available:

- Fri 11 to Mon 14 July
- Fri 24 to Mon 27 October
- Mon 27 to Fri 31 October

Alternatively, if you would like to be part of a specific 'forces only' weekend, Calvert Trust Exmoor has set aside Friday 15th to Monday 18th August 2014 for this.

If you are a serving, reserve or veteran armed forces family and want to find out more please visit www.calvert-trust.org.uk/unite, email holiday@calvert-trust.org.uk or contact one of the Calvert Trust's three centres; Exmoor : 01598 763221, Kielder: 01434 250232 or Lake District: 01768 772255.



FORCES TV LAUNCHED

The new factual channel focuses on the work of the armed forces and the world of defence. It is produced by SSVC, the independent charity that runs the British Forces Broadcasting Service (BFBS) for UK military personnel and their families.

Forces TV will be available from Tuesday, 10 June, at the following channels:

- **Sky 299**
- **Virgin 244**
- **Freesat 652**

Forces TV's output will consist of news, live events, features and documentaries about every aspect of the armed forces including operations, equipment, training, welfare, sport, charity fundraising and forces family life. Both Sky and the BBC are supporting the channel and providing it with content.

SSVC Chief Executive Nick Pollard said "Our teams have been working alongside the services for years and have an unrivalled and independent understanding of the UK's armed forces. "The new channel will bring the UK viewer a 24-hour-a-day picture of everything the forces are doing, with great access behind the scenes, allowing the public to see an unprecedented picture of the military world. It'll be full of unique insights and essential viewing for everyone who wants to understand what the armed forces are doing."

The channel's primary target audience is the UK 'forces community' which is estimated at more than 12 million individuals – serving personnel, their families and friends, reservists, cadets, veterans and their dependants, and those who work alongside the forces and raise money for their charities.

Welcoming the new channel the Prime Minister David Cameron said "As more of our troops come home, it is vital that we do not lose touch with the amazing contribution that our armed forces have made and continue to make. We cannot forget them; we have to always remember the sacrifices they make. "I am sure Forces TV will provide that vital link between the public and our servicemen and women and I wish it the very best for every success."

Forces TV will be broadcast round the clock from SSVC's studios at Chalfont in Buckinghamshire. Early programmes include a documentary series featuring 3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment, an exclusive production of the play 'The Two Worlds of Charlie F' about soldiers injured in battle, and a special series that goes behind the scenes at the Royal Hospital Chelsea. Forces TV is supported by a new content-rich website www.forces.tv and a major social media presence.



If you have any feedback or comments on this issue or would like to contribute or have suggestions for future issues please email wafcc@worcestershire.gov.uk or call Alan Smith, Worcestershire Partnership Relationship Manager on 01905 822836.