

## NEW MONEY, NEW POSTS, MORE COVENANT SUPPORT!



**Organisations across the partnership area have been successful in securing grants from the MOD Covenant Fund totalling nearly £132,000. This is to raise awareness of the Armed Forces Covenant, strengthen the delivery of services to the Armed Forces community and improve integration between civilian and military communities.**



The Borough Councils of Nuneaton and Bedworth and North Warwickshire have secured £76,000 from the MOD Covenant Fund for a 2 year post to strengthen the delivery of the Covenant across Nuneaton and Bedworth and North Warwickshire. The post will work with statutory, military and charitable organisations and support the integration of civilian and military communities.



Voluntary Action Coventry has secured £19,785 for a 'Coventry 4 Good Action Team'. Voluntary Action Coventry will create a team of ex-Service personnel and their families who will interact with other volunteers to undertake community projects for disadvantaged communities in Coventry. Participants will have an opportunity to tackle social isolation, issues of low level self-esteem and barriers to integration through applying their skills and knowledge in a civilian setting.



Kineton Station have received £16,000 to support celebrating 75 years of service to the country. This is during the weekend of 22-23 July.



The Veterans' Contact Point has received £20,000 to provide a Veterans Integration Project. This will provide 1-2-1 peer support to veterans accessing opportunities across Warwickshire, assisting and supporting veterans to engage more cohesively with statutory and voluntary resources. This will be done through the recruitment and training of new and existing Peer Support Volunteers.

If you want to become a Volunteer/Peer Support Worker, please contact the VCP 02476343793 or email [contactus@veteranscontactpoint.co.uk](mailto:contactus@veteranscontactpoint.co.uk)

If your organisation has a good idea for a project to support the Armed Forces community or help the integration of civilian and military communities, the MOD Local Covenant Grants scheme may be able to help with grants with grants up to £20,000. Applications can come from a local charity, a school, a Community Interest Company or an Armed Forces Unit. Applications submitted by 5 October will be decided before the end of November so get planning!

**More information can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covenant-fund-guidance-on-how-to-apply>**

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# LOCAL AUTHORITIES FLY THE FLAG FOR ARMED FORCES DAY

Many Local Authorities across the CSW Armed Forces Covenant partnership began the build up to Armed Forces Day with a flag raising ceremony. This was on Monday 19 June as part of the annual national campaign to give communities the opportunity to show their support for the men and women of the Armed Forces including currently serving troops, Service families, Reservists, veterans and cadets.

This year, attending the County Council's flag raising ceremony at Shire Hall were: David Carter and Monica Fogarty, Joint Managing Directors of Warwickshire County Council; Councillor & Mrs Rickhards, Chairman of the Council; Councillor Bob Stevens, President of the Royal British Legion; and Timothy Cox, The Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire.



Warwickshire County Council Fly the Flag for Armed Forces Day

Councillor Bob Stevens, President of the Royal British Legion and Chair of the Sub Regional Armed Forces Covenant Partnership, said: "The County Council is honoured to show its commitment and support for Armed Forces personnel who defend our country and its interests all around the world, every day.

As well as celebrating the tireless work of our Armed Forces to keep us safe, we are continuing to work hard with our partners in the Armed Forces Covenant partnership for Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull to provide services and assistance to Armed Forces personnel and their families."



Warwick DC flag raising at Leamington Spa Town Hall

The Armed Forces Day flag was also raised at the Royal Leamington Spa Town Hall in the company of Cllr Alan Boad Chairman of Warwick District Council, Cllr Caroline Evetts Mayor of Royal Leamington Spa, Captain Keith Cahill RLC Kineton and Adrian Barton, joined by

veterans John Evette REME, Major Richard Astley-Cooper, Len Harris EMI Royal Navy and Vince Watson (Chairman), Patricia and Lillian Brocklehurst from Spa Branch of the Royal British Legion.

In Nuneaton the flag raising ceremony was taken by the Deputy Mayor Cllr Chris Watkins, with support from Veterans from the Veteran Contact Point.



Flag ceremony at Nuneaton Town Hall

# COVENTRY REMEMBERS



Over 200 people attended a memorial service for the sinking of HMS Coventry during the Falklands Conflict of 1982. This took place on the 25th May at Holy Trinity Church, Coventry and was particularly poignant coming just 3 days after the Manchester Arena bombing.



HMS Coventry memorial service at Holy Trinity Church, Coventry

The Lord Mayor of Coventry, Cllr Tony Skipper, was joined by other local community leaders, representatives from the Royal Navy, RAF and Army, many veterans and other members of the public. A minutes silence was held at

11am to remember the 19 men who died on HMS Coventry, the 23 people who died and those injured in the Manchester Arena bombing, and those Service personnel who have made the ultimate sacrifice over the years.

Cllr. Linda Bigham, Coventry City Council's Armed Forces Champion said 'When sitting in reflection in Holy Trinity before the start of such a memorial service to remember the sinking of HMS Coventry, surrounded by the flags and banners of the past, it was impossible not to be deeply moved by the sight of young men and women in uniform with their eagerness and dedication and to remember and honour of those who went before them. We owe such men and women our freedom'

Capt. Makand Singh MBE from 159 Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps, who attended the memorial service, commented "It was a huge honour for me to attend the memorial on behalf of the Army. The reason we are able to walk along this beautiful path of freedom is because our forebears have built it at a very heavy cost. We should always remember their sacrifices and that of those who have been left behind"

HMS Coventry was a Type 42 destroyer in the Royal Navy during the Falklands Conflict. It was struck by three bombs on 25 May 1982. Two of the bombs caused critical damage which caused flooding aboard the ship. Within 20 minutes, HMS Coventry had to be abandoned and subsequently sank.

A memorial plaque to those who lost their lives on HMS Coventry can be found inside Holy Trinity Church.

# ARMED FORCES DAY CELEBRATED!

A number of events took place across the CSW Armed Forces Covenant partnership area to celebrate Armed Forces Day on Saturday 24 June. These included the Nuneaton event honouring the life of Jesse Owen, Royal Marines, a march in Coventry by 605 Squadron RAF Reserve and a Community Fun Day at St. John's House Museum in Warwick.

This year's event in Nuneaton honoured the life of Jesse Owen who served with the Royal Marines, the Special Boat Squadron (a naval equivalent of the SAS), the Police as well as the local community as a swimming instructor and trustee of the Veteran's Contact Point.



Mr Michael Fetherstone-Dilke, Warwickshire's Deputy Lord Lieutenant talks to veteran Fusilier Dick Stamp

The event was opened by Mr Michael Fetherstone-Dilke, Warwickshire's Deputy Lord Lieutenant and Chris Watkins Deputy Mayor for Nuneaton and Bedworth. As ever, the Cadets of 121 Squadron Air Training Corps beat the Veterans in the field gun race and their youth was evident in the touch rugby games organised by Wasps in the Community.

Coventry held a service and parade for 605 Squadron, which is a RAF Reserve Logistics Support Squadron. The parade through Broadgate was taken by the Lord Mayor of Coventry, Councillor Tony Skipper, who said: "Coventry, as a city, is very proud of its links with the Squadron and the Armed Forces. This day is vital to thank those brave personnel who have kept us safe and help Coventry spread its message of peace and

reconciliation around the world." 605 Squadron was previously granted the Freedom of Coventry 65 years ago and, following the re-formation of 605 Squadron in 2014 the commemorative silver rosebowl was returned to them.



605 Squadron RAF Reserve parading in Coventry on Armed Forces Day



Cllr George Illingworth from Warwick DC with members of Kineton Station

In Warwick, the Community Fun Day involved a range of activities and information on the Armed Forces and included contributions from Kineton Station, Marlborough Barracks and the Royal British Legion.

## THE PRIDE SHINES THROUGH



AB1 (Sea) Sharon Burford

**I am AB1 (Sea) Sharon Burford of the Royal Naval Reserve and I have been a Reservist for over 15 years, delivering Force Protection at Sea, when away with the Royal Navy. I am also employed by Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council as a Senior Library Assistant and have been here for over 28 years**

My dad served in the Royal Navy as a Petty Officer and his sharing of stories and seeing him in his uniform always excited me and I knew from then that I had a desire to become part of the Armed Forces.

Later in life I discovered there was a Reservist unit in Birmingham. One phone call later and I had changed my life pathway. Being a Reservist has changed me in many ways and has given me the opportunity to develop skills, knowledge and abilities that I might never have acquired in the Library Service alone. I went into the Library service as a shy young lady and I am now equipped to deal with my customer service role in a confident and effective manner. In my early days I may have got a colleague to intervene when things became challenging!

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council recognises me in my role as a Reservist and I am regularly invited to attend local events in my full No1 Uniform, including attending ceremonies as part of Armed Forces Week.

Although the staff know I am a Reservist, Armed Forces Week is an opportunity for them and the customers to ask me about what I do and for me to share the pride I have being a Reservist and serving my country.

# AROUND THE WORLD WITH 30 SIGNAL REGIMENT

**Bramcote's 30th Signal Regiment continues to deliver communications and command support at readiness to higher formations in a fast-paced and operationally focused environment. Each of the five Squadrons has been training and tested in the UK and overseas.**

258 Signal Squadron deployed to Florida on a month long interoperability exercise with the US Defence where they achieved communication links not previously recorded. They have also seen Operational Liaison Reconnaissance Teams deploy worldwide in support of the British Government. The Squadron's Early Entry Headquarters was also tested in Bahrain, assuring its ability to deliver at extremely high readiness.

Elsewhere, 244 Signal Squadron deployed on exercises in the UK, US and the Falklands in support of 16 Air Assault Brigade and Joint Helicopter Force. 256 Signal Squadron has deployed troops to Brunei, Cyprus and at the time of writing is working alongside 250 Gurkha Signal Squadron, as part of a multi formation HQ exercise in the UK. This will examine their ability to provide a working and sustained headquarters for the Joint Task Force Headquarters.

On a sporting and adventure training front there has been



Soldier from 30 Signal Regiment at a Falklands cemetery

phenomenal success this year with the Regiment winning the Lanyard Trophy (a 40-mile loaded march competition) for both male and female teams, reaching the Corps and Army football finals and finishing 2nd overall at the Corps athletics. Ex CHILEAN VOLCANO DRAGON saw our soldiers be the first UK military team to reach the summit of the second highest mountain in South America.

Success breeds success and the Regiment are all the better for the hard work that goes into being ready to deploy. Support from the community is greatly appreciated and well-received. If any of the readership would like to learn more, you are welcome to visit the Bramcote Station Open Day on Sunday 23rd July at Gamecock Barracks. We look forward to seeing you!

# KINETON STATION ENDURES



This year, Kineton Station celebrates its 75th Anniversary. As we take this opportunity to look back at a proud history it is easy to forget current endeavours. Kineton is no less busy now than it was when operations in Iraq and Afghanistan were in full force.

Ammunition is still required for enduring deployments and routine training exercises. With Kineton being the largest of Defence Munitions eight storage Sites much of this requirement is issued from the heart of Warwickshire. This stock requires constant maintenance, and the Ammunition Technical Support Group consistently process 14 tonnes of ammunition per week. As well as this there are, on average, 2500 transactions each month of ammunition received and issued by the depot. A strong safety culture underpins these tasks and ensures that the risk to military and civilian staff is minimised.



Officers, soldiers and airmen are also regularly deployed overseas. In the past year the Unit has committed personnel to the Falklands, Kenya and Belize and throughout the UK. Whilst this contribution may appear small, for a Unit of only 70 military personnel, the impact will affect its day to day outputs.

The Unit also ensures that it gives Service personnel an opportunity to test themselves in a wide range of challenging and varied environments. The past 12 months has seen military personnel undertake a demanding infantry training exercise in Scotland, skiing in Germany, diving in Malta and cycling in France whilst members of the Unit have successfully competed in a number of individual and team sports.



In the 75 years since its inception, Kineton's fundamental purpose has not changed. It remains steadfast in its mission to store, maintain, process and deliver ammunition worldwide.

# 159 REGIMENT RLC: IMPROVING THEIR SOLDIER SKILLS!

159 Regiment Royal Logistic Corps have had a busy few months with their annual deployment exercise, a handover/takeover of Commanding Officers and getting ready for the recruitment programme 'Access to Logistics'.



Cpl Lucas on patrol in Cyprus

This year the Regiment was lucky enough to deploy to sunny Cyprus on their Annual Deployment Exercise 'Lion Star 4'. Every year the soldiers have to complete their two week camp in order to maintain basic soldiering skills, whilst also learning new ones. This year tested them as they were running around in combats, with weapons and gear in temperatures rising to almost 30 degrees!

The first few days were spent conducting low level training before deploying into the field for 5 days. This gave the Reservists a really good understanding of how to look after themselves in adverse conditions as well as how to react to, locate and defeat the enemy. All Reservists are expected to have good soldiering skills in addition to their trade skills.

The next phase of training was 'Adventure Training'. This included hill walking, mountain biking and rock climbing. Adventure training helps foster team cohesion within the Regiment as well as placing people outside of their comfort zones. Developing a close unit can be difficult due to the Reserve Commitment of only 27 days a year so this type of training is essential for forging bonds, which may end up being tested in operational situations.



Lt Col Comer hands over to Lt Col Allen

Exercise Lion Star 4 was also one of the last duties as Commanding Officer for Lt.Col. Comer. He has handed over to Lt.Col. Pat Allen and we wish them both well in their future roles.

159 Regt have been preparing for and are now running their Access to Logistics (A2L) Summer 17 course. A2L offers someone the ability to become a soldier in 10

weeks, finishing with a licence to drive Military and civilian vehicles plus £5,500 in their pocket! Last year 14 people completed A2L and stayed in the Reserves, many of whom have been on deployment in Cyprus and Kenya.

159 Regt. are always looking for new Logisticians, Drivers, Chefs, Medics and HR Specialists. The opportunities for travel are second to none so why not join us? Search for us on Facebook @159Regiment.

# LEARNING ABOUT THE FRONT LINE!

Pupils at St Francis Catholic Primary School in Bedworth had a real live soldier visit them in the classroom during May. Warrant Officer Class 2 Ray Millar delivered a fun and interactive session to 10-11 year olds on the life of a World War 1 soldier and how this compared to modern day soldiering. Pupils were able to compare equipment, uniforms, who the soldiers were, as well as explore the life of a typical soldier.



WO2 Millar gives his Soldiers to School lesson to pupils at St Francis Catholic Primary School in Bedworth



Gabriel Carey in WW1 uniform

WO2 Millar was ably assisted by Gabriel Carey in WW1 uniform and Hayley Nganga in modern uniform. At the end of the session WO2 Millar was bombarded by questions such as 'Where is no man's land?' and 'What is the most dangerous job in the Army?', to which he admirably withstood the barrage!

Ashley Kalnins, Head of Standards and Year 6 Teacher said "It was fantastic to see the children so engaged. Every child learnt a great deal about the First World War and how they compared to soldiers today. The speaker was excellent and really got the children involved and enthusiastic about life as a soldier. I was extremely pleased to see the children taking on board all he said. On behalf of the children, I would like to thank 'Soldiers to school'.

Soldiers to Schools is a part of the Army's programme for the commemorations of the centenary of the First World War. Ray Miller has been delivering this programme for a number of years and it is still available for schools across the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire AFC partnership area. Ray says 'Soldiers to School is an amazing opportunities for young people to learn more about the life of a World War 1 soldier. Through interactive learning they see a stark comparison between conditions in WW1 and today helping them to empathise with what life was like 100 years ago'



Gabriel Carey in WW1 uniform

If any school is interested in a Soldiers to Schools session please contact Ray on 07970578524 or via 11SIGX-HQ-G9-MCI-YEWO@mod.uk

# COVENANT IN ACTION



Lots of work happens to progress the Covenant on both a national and local basis. Here's a roundup of some of them:

## THE VETERANS' GATEWAY IS LAUNCHED!



The Veteran's Gateway was launched in a blaze of publicity on 20 June. If you missed it you need to know that the Veterans' Gateway is the first Point of Contact for veterans and their families in need of support. The service aims to put veterans and their families in touch with the organisations best placed to help with the information, advice and support they need – from healthcare and housing to employability, finances, personal relationships and more.

The Veteran's Gateway will provide website, online chat, phone line and text message services available to any veteran, from anywhere in the world, 24 hours a day. Veterans can access face-to-face support through the Veterans' Gateway network of partners and organisations across the UK and overseas. Partners include the Royal British Legion, SSAFA and many others.

The Veterans' Gateway can be contacted by:

- calling 0808 802 1212
- texting 81212
- visiting [www.veteransgateway.org.uk](http://www.veteransgateway.org.uk)

**The Veterans' Gateway is a £2 million project funded by the MOD Covenant Fund.**

## LOCAL DISCOUNTS FOR THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY

A number of organisations are showing their support for the Armed Forces community by providing discounts to Leisure Services and other activities.

Compton Verney Art Gallery and Park offer 2 for 1 tickets or 50% off their memberships for current and former members of the Armed Forces. An Annual Pass for the family to access the Collections and Park, including Forest School, Adventure Playground and nature walks could be as little as £11. See [www.comptonverney.org.uk](http://www.comptonverney.org.uk) for more details.

SLM who operate a number of District or Borough Leisure facilities offer a discounted membership that includes unlimited use of the fitness suite, classes, health suite and public swimming across all of their centres. This is £35 per month or £350 for an annual membership (12 months for the price of 10).

Armed Forces Veterans living in North Warwickshire can now access leisure and recreation activities at a discounted rate thanks to the introduction of the new Armed Forces Veterans Concessionary Membership scheme. With this scheme they can access NWBC Lifetimes sites at Arley, Atherstone, Coleshill and Polesworth and enjoy unlimited access, during public opening, to the Fitness Suites, Fitness Classes and swimming (at Atherstone) from as little as £18.33 per month.

If you would like more information or discuss the offer further, please call the team at any of the leisure sites by calling our leisure line 01827 719321 or visiting [northwarks.gov.uk](http://northwarks.gov.uk)

**ID is required as proof of eligibility.**

## BROADBAND PROVIDERS DROP CANCELLATION FEES FOR ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL

Defence Minister Mark Lancaster has announced that Armed Forces personnel will no longer have to face cancellation fees for their broadband and media packages when posted overseas or to another part of the UK.

The change agreed to under the tenets of the Armed Forces Covenant includes BT, Sky, EE, Plusnet, Talk Talk and Virgin Media (95% of providers), who have all committed to treating Armed Forces personnel fairly when cancelling their contracts.

# EMPLOYERS SUPPORT THE COVENANT!

The Defence Employer Recognition Scheme awards Gold, Silver and Bronze awards in recognition of an organisations support for the Armed Forces Covenant and the Armed Forces community. These organisations promote or demonstrate that they are Armed Forces friendly and employ members of the Armed Forces community. They also support their Reservists to attend training and deployments.

## Some of the local award winners are:

- Gold:** Jaguar Land Rover (for their work employing Service Leavers and support of the Invictus Games)
- Silver:** Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (for their work with Reservists)
- Bronze:** City College Coventry  
Compton Verney Art Gallery  
Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust  
Coventry City Council  
NFU Mutual  
North Warwickshire Borough Council  
Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council  
Rugby High School  
Ubique partnerships Ltd  
(a Community Rehabilitation Company)  
Warwick District Council  
Warwickshire County Council  
Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Services  
Warwickshire Police  
WASPS Rugby Club

If you would like to support your organisation to get an award please visit here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/defence-employer-recognition-scheme/defence-employer-recognition-scheme>



# e-LEARNING GOES LIVE... AND NATIONAL!

The e-learning module on the Armed Forces Covenant for Frontline Staff was launched in March this year and will soon be followed by other modules aimed at Armed Forces personnel, Housing and Homelessness staff and Families of Armed Forces personnel.



This first module is aimed at frontline staff who might come into contact with members of the Armed Forces community and gives them an insight into life in the Services and its impact on Service families. It

includes videos, case studies and ways of supporting the Armed Forces community more effectively.

This e-learning module has been taken up by partner organisations and also made available on a national basis. So far, over 80 organisations, including Local Authorities, NHS Trusts, Police Forces and voluntary organisations have either expressed an interest in taking the e-Learning or are now using it for their own staff!

If you're interested in knowing more please email [afcc@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:afcc@warwickshire.gov.uk)

# WHAT'S UNDER YOUR COFFEE CUP? OR BEER MAT?

BE PROUD OF YOUR SERVICE



## Do you recognise this?

The Armed Forces Team locally have been working with partners to raise awareness of the Covenant and to encourage members of the Armed Forces community to seek help if they need it. These have been distributed within local camps, community venues, pubs and coffee shops.

BUT NOT TOO PROUD TO ASK FOR HELP IF YOU NEED IT

If you would like some please contact us at [afcc@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:afcc@warwickshire.gov.uk)

# RAISING AWARENESS OF THE COVENANT IS ONGOING!

For over 12 months the CSW partnerships' Armed Forces Covenant Worker has been delivering face to face training sessions to raise awareness of the Covenant and how to support the Armed Forces community. During 2016-17 over 500 people were trained from a variety of organisations including public, voluntary and community

organisations. Sessions are tailored to the needs of the group and can last from 30-90 minutes.

This training continues to be available across Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire so if you are your organisation are interested in knowing more please contact [afcc@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:afcc@warwickshire.gov.uk)

**EX-FORCES?  
LOOKING FOR WORK?**



**LIFEWORKS  
BIRMINGHAM**  
25<sup>TH</sup> - 29<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017

wearelifeworks.org.uk    0800 319 6844    lifeworks@rbli.co.uk

Photo: MOD Crown Copyright.



**VETERANS'  
GATEWAY**

The Veterans' Gateway is the first point of contact for veterans seeking support.



**Call us on 0808 802 1212**  
Speak to an advisor at our contact centre. Lines are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**Text 81212**  
Provide your details by text message and one of our advisors will be in touch as soon as possible.

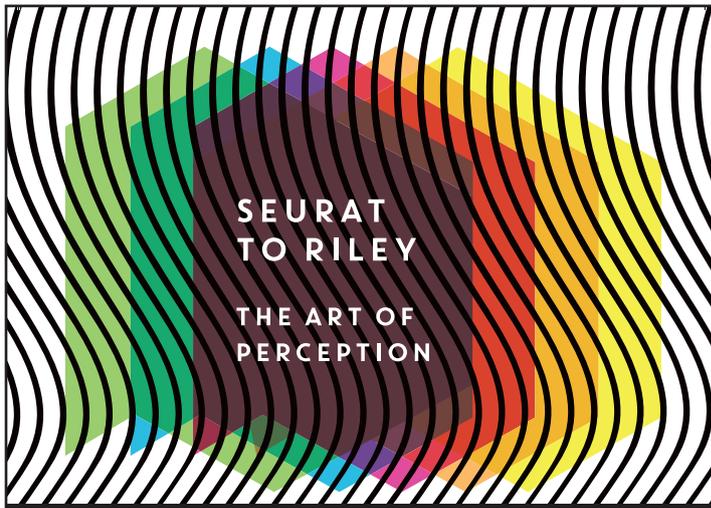
Live chat and email available via  
[www.veteransgateway.org.uk](http://www.veteransgateway.org.uk)





Warwickshire & West Mercia Armed Forces Covenant  
Remember Veterans Criminal Justice Services Project  
Working Together together to  
Support Veterans in the Criminal Justice System

**Remember Veterans Helpline**  
**02476 348227**  
[www.remember-veterans.com](http://www.remember-veterans.com)



**SEURAT  
TO RILEY**  
THE ART OF  
PERCEPTION

**Don't miss this summer's  
eye-popping exhibition  
Seurat to Riley:  
The Art of Perception**

2 FOR 1 TICKETS FOR CURRENT AND FORMER  
MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES



Compton Verney  
Award-Winning Art Gallery and Park  
Warwickshire CV35 9HZ  
[comptonverney.org.uk](http://comptonverney.org.uk) | t. 01926 645500