

VETERAN HONOURED IN QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

Veteran Len Hardy was awarded the British Empire Medal in the 2019 Queen's Birthday Honours List for his services to veterans in Warwickshire.

Len has been campaigning and developing veterans support for over a decade and is a founder member of the Veterans' Contact Point (VCP) in Nuneaton. The VCP has grown considerably over the years and over the past 12 months has undergone a full refurbishment with support from Warwickshire County Council and Balfour Beatty.

The range of services delivered from the VCP include direct support for veterans, outreach into Atherstone and other locations across North Warwickshire, access to SSAFA, mental health support through Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust and Remember Veterans, a criminal justice intervention.

Len said "I am humbled and honoured to receive this recognition from HM The Queen, especially as it was awarded in recognition of the support for our Armed Forces Community we have developed here in Warwickshire.

I will continue to fight for services and support for all of our veterans, from whatever background or circumstances they may have endured.

I am passionate that the Armed Forces Covenant remains a living, breathing and effective partnership tool to ensure we continue to do the right thing for those who have served our country and need us.

We should be proud of our achievements here in Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire and we should never be afraid to share our achievements and pride in what we do for our Armed Forces Community, I am certainly proud."

All those who work in and around the Armed Forces Covenant across Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire are rightly proud of the recognition Len has received from his county, whom he has served in one form or another over 4 decades. Congratulations Len!



Veteran Len Hardy BEM

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ARMED FORCES WEEK EVENTS IN NUNEATON, WARWICK, SOLIHULL AND COVENTRY



Solihull MBC Staff Sing-a-long with a medley of WWII tunes

Solihull MBC held various displays on the Armed Forces Covenant and a drop in event for people to find out more about ancestors who served in the Armed Forces. Library staff were available to help and support people to get free access to Library wifi and SMBC subscriptions to Ancestry and Find My Past.



Among those attending the event and showing his support for the Armed forces was Matt Western MP

Warwick AF Day was again held at St. John's House and organised by Warwick District Council and the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers Museum. There were displays from WWII and Home Guard re-enactors as well as paintball, climbing wall and circus skills for children and families. Kineton Station demonstrated their Bomb Disposal capabilities and new STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) equipment for use with schools and community groups.



121 ATC Gun Team

AFD Nuneaton was held in a new venue of Riversley Park Nuneaton, organised and hosted by The Veterans Contact Point with an estimated 20 Volunteers involved in the event.

This year there was an increase of public attendance due to the new venue location and its nearness to the town centre. A variety of stalls/traders attended the free event providing a range of services/goods from Face Painting to Cocktails. The serving military were represented by the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers Recruiting Team and 159 RLC Regiment based in Coventry. 121 Nuneaton Squadron Air Training Corps provided the Field Gun demonstration and again won the Annual Veteran vs Cadet Field Gun competition. This year the Nepalese Community of Nuneaton provided a stall allowing people to take part in some of the physical tests to become a Gurkha.

Feedback from public, traders and veterans mentioned the great location, the friendly atmosphere and how proud they were of our Armed Forces Community.



To celebrate Armed Forces Day 2019, WCC libraries put together a short selection of non-fiction and fiction books available throughout Warwickshire focused on the Armed Forces and military history.

For individual availability and for further titles please check on the library catalogue www.warwickshire.gov.uk/libraries.

COVENTRY D-DAY PEACE PICNIC



Coventry Peace Orchard

To mark the 75th anniversary of D-Day, and celebrate the work of local schools, a Peace Picnic was held at the Coventry Peace Orchard in Coundon Hall Park on the afternoon of 6th June 2019.

The event was attended by around 400 children from four Coventry schools, local people, and the families of D-Day

veterans, who enjoyed live music, played football, made bird and bat boxes and puppets, planted a symbolic lilac tree, and had fun in the sun.

Coventry's Lord Mayor, Cllr Linda Bigham, spoke about the importance of the Normandy Campaign as the turning point of World War II, and praised the partnership between the Normandy Day charity, Cardinal Newman Secondary School and Coventry City Council.

The event celebrated the completion of some new Peace Orchard features – direction signs, a new footpath, benches and giant apple sculptures made from scratch by Cardinal Newman School, plaques containing famous peace quotes alongside quotes by local schools children, information panels, and a web site.

<https://www.peaceorchard.co.uk/>

A short video of the event has been produced by local film maker jam-am and can be found at <https://youtu.be/LYwQkrMyVY0>



Lord Mayor Cllr Linda Bigham taking the salute

Coventry held a church service and parade with Lord Mayor Cllr Linda Bigham taking the salute. Lord Mayor Bigham, said: *"Thank you to everyone for their support to Coventry's Armed Forces Day Service and Parade on Saturday. We were blessed with the sunshine and I am grateful to all the participants and spectators who turned out to show their support to our past, present and future Armed Forces community"*.



Solihull MBC Flag Raising with Sharon Burford, Royal Naval Reserve and dignitaries in Shirley Park on Wednesday 26 June

Solihull's Deputy Mayor Cllr Flo Nash joined representatives from the Royal British Legion and Deputy Lieutenant, Stephen Goldstein CBE DL, along with SMBC employee and Royal Naval Reservist Sharon Burford, at the Shirley Park War Memorial to raise the Armed Forces Day flag. The flag could also be seen proudly flying from the top of the Solihull Council building all week.

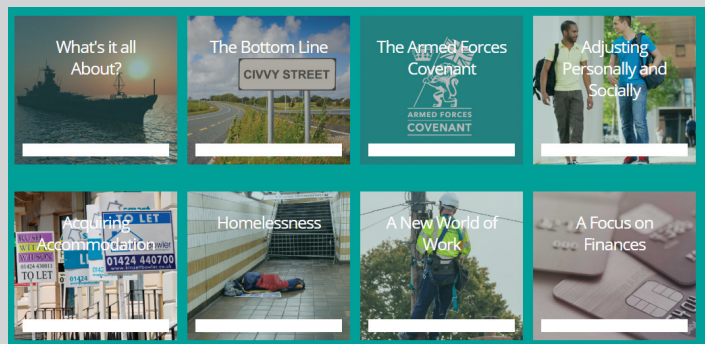


Warwickshire County Council raised the flag to support our forces. Present were Cllr Nicola Davies Chair, Monica Fogarty Chief Executive, Cllr Izzi Seccombe Leader and Cllr Bob Stevens Armed Forces Champion.

Volunteers from the Royal British Legion organised a family friendly celebration event in Shirley Park.

The event was a fantastic opportunity for members of the public to meet with veterans, serving Armed Forces personnel and their families to celebrate the vital role, contribution and sacrifice of our Armed Forces community. Attending the event, was the Mayor of Solihull, Cllr Stuart Davis who was joined Deputy Lieutenant Tim Watts DL. Mayor Davis said: *"Armed Forces Day is a chance for all of us to show our support for the outstanding men and women who make up our Armed Forces. It was an honour to be able to take part and to see so many people come together in showing their gratitude and support for our Armed Forces community. We are all very proud of the amazing work they do to keep us safe."*

ADJUSTING TO LIFE OUTSIDE OF THE ARMED FORCES: A FREE RESOURCE FOR SERVICE LEAVERS, VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES



Warwickshire County Council, on behalf of the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Armed Forces Covenant partnership has launched an innovative e-learning resource for those who are leaving or have recently left the Armed Forces and their families.

This training programme has been designed to support those leaving or who have left the Armed Forces and helps in the process of adjusting to life outside of the Armed Forces. It addresses issues that are commonly experienced within the transition and adjustment process such as acquiring accommodation, employment, health as well as personal and family adjustment. It also raises awareness of the Armed Forces Covenant and the support that exists for veterans and their families.

Minister for Defence People and Veterans Tobias Ellwood said: *"I am very pleased to welcome this new resource focused on Service Leavers and Veterans. We know that the period of transition and adjustment to civilian life can be difficult for some individuals and families and this e-learning will aid them in settling back into civilian life. One excellent feature is the 'Three Top Tips' being shared from veterans of all 3 services as well as spouses who have made the transition."*

Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE, Leader of Warwickshire County Council said *"I am delighted that the Covenant Team at the Council have developed these fabulous resources for those who are leaving the Services or who have recently left. These resources will also help families supporting Service leavers and veterans. This work is part of the local partnership's contribution to supporting the Armed Forces and their families and delivering on the Covenant promise to reduce disadvantage for the Armed Forces community."*

These modules were created by the Armed Forces Covenant Team within the Council, in collaboration with ex-serving personnel, Naval, Army and RAF Families Federations and organisations within the local partnership.

The e-learning is available at <https://www.armedforcescovenant.gov.uk/learning/adjusting-to-life-outside-the-armed-forces/#/>. From this site individuals will be able to work through different aspects of the module such as Housing, Employment, Adjusting etc.

TAMZIN SAYS THANK YOU WITH FLOWERS

A pupil from Smith's Wood Academy in Solihull is set to see her design in flowers after winning the annual Love Solihull flowerbed design competition. The competition is in partnership with the Royal British Legion and their 'Thank You' campaign, which last year marked 100 years since the end of World War One.



Tamzin Clarke with Mayor Cllr Flo Nash, Elaine Butler and her teacher

The competition received more than 300 entries from 12 local schools but it was Tamzin Clarke, age 12, who drew the winning entry. Her design has been used to transform a flowerbed at Malvern Park and showcases the importance of the Poppy as a symbol of hope and remembrance.

The Mayor of Solihull Cllr Flo Nash said: *"Love Solihull's annual competition is a wonderful way to get young people to think about serious issues and to demonstrate their creativity. 'This year's competition is particularly poignant and focuses on raising awareness amongst our schoolchildren of the crippling effect of World War One on the Home front as well as those who served. I'm delighted that we had so many thoughtful and creative entries. However there can only be one winner, so congratulations to Tamzin for drawing such a great picture.."*

Elaine Butler, Legion County President for Warwickshire & Birmingham said: *"The Legion is here to champion Remembrance but also to allow it to evolve. We want to empower people to find new ways to remember those who have served, to give all communities the freedom to develop their own forms of Remembrance which reflect their own histories and cultures. Therefore, the Love Solihull flowerbed is a perfect example of how we remember all that served the sacrifices that were made and it symbolises hope for the future."*

Love Solihull supports members of the local community in making a positive difference to the environment and aims to make the borough cleaner and greener.

For more information follow 'Love Solihull' on social media or email LoveSolihull@Solihull.gov.uk

CHARITY BIKE RIDE LEADS TO VOLUNTEERING!

Ryan Nash wanted to follow in his Great Uncle's footsteps and join the Armed Forces, but was unable to do so. Determined to do something to support our troops he has recently taken part in a charity cycle ride on behalf of the Royal British Legion. His ride from London to Ypres, a distance of 310 miles, has raised over £1600 with monies still rolling in.

Despite the incredibly challenging heat and problems with dehydration Ryan enjoyed the event and is determined to repeat the experience in a couple of year's time.

As part of his preparation for this event Ryan met Nick Caswell, a Veteran and Outreach Worker with the Veterans' Contact Point (VCP) in Nuneaton. Ryan has now become a volunteer for the VCP and can regularly be seen helping out at the Community Space Shop in Atherstone Arcade when the veterans have their coffee morning on the first Thursday of every month.

To be involved in the VCP or for more information on the coffee morning ring the VCP on 024 7634 3793 or email contactus@veteranscontactpoint.co.uk.



Ryan on his cycle

ARMED FORCES AND VETERANS BREAKFAST CLUB LAUNCH

A new Armed Forces and Veterans Breakfast Club is being launched in Coventry on Saturday 7th September.

This is open to all arms of the Armed Forces and is being led by Mick Crowther. It will be based at Coundon Social Club, Coventry and will meet on the first Saturday of each month.

For further information visit the **Coventry Armed Forces Breakfast Club Facebook page**.



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ARMED FORCES & VETERANS
BREAKFAST CLUBS

ASDA SUPPORTS VETERANS CAFÉ AT RRF MUSEUM

The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers' Museum has been running a drop in Veterans' Café on the first Tuesday of the month from 10.30am to 12.30pm since the spring of 2019.

The museum has been lucky to receive a grant from the Asda Foundation to go towards improving the Veterans Café at the Museum. This has been spent on new foldable tables, table cloths, and hot water jugs to help the free Veterans Café run better.

The Veterans Café is open to all veterans of any Service and is a chance to relax in a friendly place and chat over tea and biscuits.

For further details contact 01926 491653.



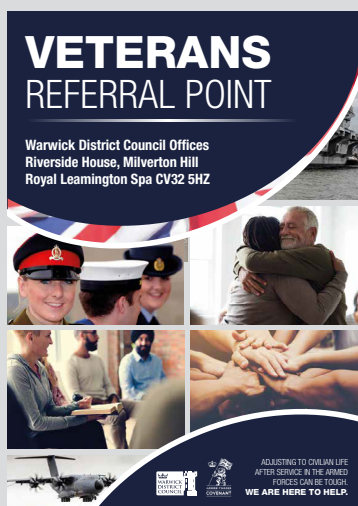
Stephanie Bennett, Curator of RRF museum receiving a cheque from Jo Butler, Asda

NEW WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL SUPPORT SERVICES FOR VETERANS AND FAMILIES/CARERS

Warwick District Council have established two new services aimed at supporting veterans and their families/ carers based at the District Council offices in Milverton Hill in Leamington Spa.

The services are as follows:

Veterans Referral Point – this is a service provided by frontline staff at Warwick District Council Offices Riverside House, where veterans seeking support are able to be referred into a range of support services aimed at Veterans and their Family Members/ Carers.



Royal British Legion Advice & Information session – on the 4th Monday of every month an RBL Advice and Information Officer will be available at Warwick District Council Offices Riverside House for face to face appointment on a drop-in basis.



For further information please contact Bernadette Allen on:
Email: Bernadette.Allen@warwickdc.gov.uk
Tel: 01926 456020

THE POPPY FACTORY IS HERE TO HELP VETERANS BACK INTO WORK



The Poppy Factory is the country's leading employment charity for veterans with physical and/or mental health conditions.

They are looking to support veterans across Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire, especially those who are or who have been Wounded, Injured or Sick.

The Poppy Factory can provide a free, personalised employability service to veterans with 1:1 support, coaching and guidance.

The Poppy Factory also work with businesses across the country to provide bespoke opportunities and ongoing employment support for wounded, injured and sick veterans. Since 2010, they have supported 1000 veterans back into civilian employment.

For more information visit <https://www.poppyfactory.org/>

WARWICKSHIRE COVENANT WORK HIGHLIGHTED IN NATIONAL REPORT

Warwickshire County Council's e-learning programme on the Armed Forces Covenant has been included in a national report.



The Local Government Association commissioned Shared Intelligence to pull together ten case studies of projects supported by the Covenant Fund, including the e-learning. The report highlights the action that Councils and their partners are taking to deliver the objectives of the Armed Forces Covenant and the important part that the Covenant Fund is playing in supporting that action.

The report can be found at <https://www.local.gov.uk/delivering-armed-forces-covenant-locally>

LEAMINGTON FC SIGNS THE COVENANT

Leamington FC Chairman Jim Scott recently signed the Armed Forces Covenant for the club, pledging to uphold the key principles of the Covenant and support serving personnel and veterans. The Covenant was signed jointly by Lieutenant Colonel Paul Walkley, Commanding Officer of 2nd Battalion Royal Irish Regiment, in a ceremony held at the Club's Phillips 66 Community Stadium in front of local dignitaries, both serving and former military personnel and invited guests.

The Club are supporting the employment of veterans, offering flexibility to Reservist employees and families of serving personnel and taking part in the Tickets for Troops Initiative.



Leamington FC signs the Covenant

IT'S LOOKING TO BE A RECORD 'SUMMER OF STEM'

It's looking to be a record 2019 for the Kineton Station STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Maths) Team. With nearly 2000 youths engaged between Jan – Jun from 60 different events, we are on track to beat our 2018 record of STEM engagements. This success is credited to two main factors; the dedication and selfless commitment from Kineton's STEM Ambassadors and a £20,000 grant from the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust, which has been used to buy a whole range of STEM equipment.

So far this year there have been four large events:

- a. Engineering Education Scheme.** The RAF Ambassadors mentored a group of Coventry sixth form students in the development of project for this national competition. They were presented the task of automating an explosive storehouse utilising pre-coded robots.
- b. Rocket Cars Workshop.** RAF and Army STEM Ambassadors spent a week at the British Motor Museum building rocket cars. Visitors were given K'nex to make a car frame, from which they fitted a pneumatic rocket for launching.
- c. Toymaker's Workshop.** In partnership with Compton Verney, local primary schools were given a six-week project to engineer toys. They were then tasked with painting and decorating their constructed toys to achieve an Art Award.
- d. Build a Glider.** In partnership with Compton Verney again, Kineton STEM Team set up an attraction stand during the May half term where visitor was presented with the challenge of building gliders and launching them to see how far they would go.

These events are on top of support to cadets, school enrichment days, after-school STEM clubs, career days and school interview sessions.



Robot wire free painting

Kineton STEM have only just begun their efforts for the year as we look forward to the school summer holidays. This period will see the ambassadors busy with "A Summer of STEM" event, in partnership with both British Motor Museum

and Compton Verney. Every Tuesday at Compton Verney and every Thursday at British Motor museum, we will be hosting a series of events involving Stop Animation (a Wallace and Gromit style animation tool) and Sphero Robots (small cricket ball sized robots controlled via iPad). This will allow visitors of both attractions to be awarded with a STEAM Award (A for Arts).

If you interested in a STEM event for your community/school please contact Kineton STEM through their **Facebook page**.

RECRUITING ARMED FORCES RESERVES FROM COUNCIL STAFF

As part of Warwickshire County Council's (WCC) commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant, WCC hosted an Army Reserve recruitment event on Wednesday 17th April. This was open to all WCC staff for them to find out about the opportunities in the Army Reserve locally.



Reserves event, Shire Hall

There was the opportunity to try out a virtual reality parachute jump with D Company, 4 Parachute Regiment from Rugby and talk to 159 Regiment Royal Logistic Corp from Coventry and 37 Signal Regiment, Royal Corps of Signals from Redditch.

A number of staff and their relatives have made contact with the units to find out more.

You can find out more about local Reserve opportunities at <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/armedforcesvolunteersandreservists>

HMS FORWARD'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HMS Forward's 20th Anniversary Celebration took place at their divisional head quarters on Saturday 13th July 2019. Family, friends and local dignitaries attended the event to show their support for the Royal Navy family. The event was organised to celebrate 20 years since HMS Forward moved into its current location in Tilton Road, Birmingham. A parade featuring



Commander Philip Stark, HMS Forward, Timothy Cox, Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire, Mayor of Solihull and Sharon Burford, a Royal Naval Reservist from HMS Forward

representation from various elements of the Royal Navy Family took place, which included personnel from QE Hospital, Birmingham University, Royal Hospital Naval Reserve and Royal Marine Reserve personnel from HMS forward and the Sea Cadet Corps from the Mercia and Warwick Districts. Music was also provide by the Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines.

Meet Up, Eat Up and Put Your Feet Up

at one of our new People's Pantry lunch clubs

Join us at:

Polesworth Memorial Hall
(Every Monday starting 1st April)

Mancetter Memorial Hall
(First Tuesday of the month starting 2nd April and third Sunday of the month)

Coleshill Town Hall
(Last Friday of the month starting 29th March)

Just **£4.00** for two courses of good, home cooked food.

Tea, coffee and chat from 10.30am

Orders in by 11.30am, food served at midday

For more info call 02476 322048



VETERANS *café*

Relax in a friendly place for a chat over coffee and cake. Open to all veterans.

1st Tuesday of every month

10.30am – 12.30pm (drop-in)

at Royal Regiment of Fusiliers museum

FREE



Fusilier Museum, St John's House,
Warwick, CV34 4NF
For further details Tel. 01926 491653



In partnership with
WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

afvbc[®]

ARMED FORCES & VETERANS BREAKFAST CLUBS



New club starts in
Coventry

10.00am on 7th September 2019

Every first Saturday of each month thereafter

Coundon Social Club
Shorncliffe Road
Coventry
CV6 1GP



Coventry Armed Forces & Veterans
Breakfast Club