



# Welcome to our June 2022 Newsletter

Hi, hope that the V&F-LP's newsletter finds you well, and ready to go.... Great News... On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June, that's right

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at 10:00 am

V&F-LP will be open their doors from 10:00 am - 1:30 pm.



Our amazing communications team have been busy arranging another interesting Drop-in, with guest speaker Angela – the new care coordinator with Walking With The Wounded in the South-East.

My name is Angela, and I have recently had the amazing privilege to join the Walking With The Wounded team in the Southeast of England as a Care Coordinator based in Berkshire. I provide continuity of care and support in relation to the Social, Mental or Physical health needs of Veterans and their families, working alongside the NHS and in collaboration with other Veteran's charities.

I have trained in Mental Health, Care and have had roles within acute Mental Health settings providing care and support for Children, Adults and Older Adults. As a care coordinator I assist Veterans to get back on their feet aiding veterans and their families to access; Therapy, Housing, Benefits, Employment/training.

I personally come from a forces background growing in the forces community so have insight into all aspects of military life, environments, both positive and negative.

If you would like to contact me with support needs or information – you can contact me on

Tel 07511182524

Email [angela.hewitt@wwtw.org.uk](mailto:angela.hewitt@wwtw.org.uk)

Web [Welcome - Walking With The Wounded](http://www.wwtw.org.uk)



EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME

SILVER AWARD 2021

*Proudly serving those who serve.*





**12:00 pm**



# Veterans' WELLBEING *group*

★ **NO appointment needed**

Hello everyone!

I am looking forward to catching up with you all again for the Wellbeing Group in May.

This month, in addition to catching up with each other, we will continue to explore relaxation methods and how this can be helpful in maintaining our wellbeing.

We will be taking part in a guided relaxation session and revisiting some of the mindfulness techniques we talked about last month.

Looking forward to seeing you!  
Ali.





# Veterans' Vibes

## VETS GO 'ALWAYS A LITTLE FURTHER'

A GROUP of injured veterans have set off on an expedition of a lifetime, trekking in the Himalayas.

Organised by the Pilgrim Bandits charity, the group have embarked upon a 12-day trek while four of the party are also being given the opportunity to do a tandem skydive over Mount Everest.

One of them is double amputee Hari Budha Magar (pictured), a former Gurkha rifleman who was injured in Afghanistan, losing both his legs. "I think I will be the first double above-the-knee amputee with Genium X3s to trek to base camp, then skydive over Everest – I am super excited," he said.

The exped will not only show the veterans what they can achieve with a strong support network surrounding them, but also raise funds and boost the profile of the organisation behind the venture.

Matt Hellyer, head of Pilgrim Bandits, who will be leading the trek, commented: "The pandemic made it difficult for us to arrange trips that really challenge and motivate those that we support who have been injured on the front line.

"We hope to continue raising awareness for the important work that the charity does, so that we can help more veterans in the months and years ahead." To donate log on to [totalgiving.co.uk/mypage/mteveresttrekjump](https://totalgiving.co.uk/mypage/mteveresttrekjump)



[www.soldiermagazine.co.uk](http://www.soldiermagazine.co.uk) MAY 2022





## COVENANT FUNDS NOW AVAILABLE

■ THE Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust is launching a trio of initiatives that will provide targeted support for veterans and military families, as well as for serving personnel.

The Force for Change programme is now open to applications from the Armed Forces community – with grants of up to £10,000 available.

Meanwhile, Reaching and Supporting Armed Forces Communities is a scheme that addresses gaps in support and provision with cash sums of between £100,000 and £150,000.

Elsewhere, the Transformational Grants programme – scheduled for launch later this year – will make significant contributions to a small number of initiatives that meet unmet needs.

All three projects could be used for new and additional support, or build on work that organisations have already done. But the trust will be looking for ideas to target specific needs while delivering lasting changes or improvements.

For more information on applying and deadlines visit [covenantfund.org.uk](http://covenantfund.org.uk)

## TANKFEST TICKETS

■ TICKETS are on sale for Tankfest – an annual festival billed as the world's best display of historic moving armour.

The event in Bovington, Dorset is set to include a British Army display as well as guest vehicles including the Sherman 51, AMX and Panhard AML.

It will be staged by the Tank Museum from June 24 to 26 with arena displays, a living history battle, guest speakers and more.

Thousands are expected to attend. For tickets visit [tankmuseum.org](http://tankmuseum.org)



## MILITARY CHARITIES GET MORE SUPPORT

■ MILITARY charities are to receive £5m in government funding to support those who served in Afghanistan.

The sum will finance more than 50 projects and is being distributed by the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust.

It will include £150,000 for RFEA – The Forces Employment Charity and half a million pounds for the Samaritans to launch a new veterans support helpline.

Other projects being backed by The Afghanistan Veterans' Fund will provide ex-soldiers with mindfulness and recovery through nature, sports and access to assistance dogs.



# GREAT WAR HEROES SALUTED IN FRANCE



■ SERVICES to remember five previously unidentified First World War soldiers have been held in France after their resting places were confirmed by defence experts.

Rev Andrew Grant, chaplain to 4th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland, led the graveside rededication events attended by relatives and dignitaries.

The graves of Cpl Alexander Thayne of 2nd Dragoons (The Royal Scots Greys); 2Lt David Bell of 13th (Scottish Horse) Battalion, Black Watch (Royal Highlanders); CQMS Charles Niven of 6th Gordon Highlanders; CSM William Bax of 2nd Battalion, Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry; and Cpl William Court of the 19th Royal Hussars (Queen Alexandra's Own) were formally identified by the MoD Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre. Commonwealth War Graves Commission spokesman David Royle thanked the team for its work "in helping identify these five brave men".

[www.soldiermagazine.co.uk](http://www.soldiermagazine.co.uk) MAY 2022



**Veterans' Well-Being Group**  
**Guest Speakers**  
**Comradeship**  
**Amazin' Support Networks Links**

High Cross Church  
Knoll Road, Camberley,  
Surrey; GU15 3SY

## Veterans & Families Extravangza

**Open to all Veterans & Families**

**Wherever you may be...**

**Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month**

**10:00 am 2:00 pm**





# Falklands exhibit goes live

A UNIQUE collection of photos documenting the invasion of the Falklands taken by a former *Soldier* journalist have gone on display in the UK for the first time.

Graham Bound, who grew up in the territory's capital Port Stanley, captured the Argentine attack on April 2, 1982 and the 74-day occupation that followed on film.

Now his pictures are being displayed at the Historic Dockyard, Chatham in a showcase that commemorates the 40th anniversary of the conflict in the South Atlantic.

The exhibition – called *Everything Changed* – pulls together 40 images documenting life under the rule of the South American military junta as well as the islands' liberation.

A Royal Navy-led task force retook the territory in June following fierce fighting that cost the lives of three islanders as well as 255 British and 649 Argentine personnel.

Bound – who was 24 at the time and had founded the islands' only newspaper – openly took photos during the early stages of the occupation. But as the weeks

progressed, and repression mounted, he wielded his camera covertly.

The pictures selected for display have been restored and digitised by photographic expert Alex Schneiderman from a series of previously unprinted negatives.

An assistant editor on *Soldier* in the late 1990s and the author of several military books, Bound hoped the showcase would give visitors a unique perspective on the conflict.

He added: "Some 40 years after I took them, Alex has performed digital magic and brought my images to life – once written-off photographs are now the most dramatic.

"In some of the pictures the light falls on the faces and eyes of the men and we gain a glimpse of their emotions – despair, pride, exhaustion, determination and fear.

"I hope they remind people of the dramatic days of 1982 – when everything changed."

The exhibition is running until June 14 and admission is included in an entry ticket to Chatham. Details of the event and other Falklands exhibits are available at [thedockyard.co.uk](http://thedockyard.co.uk) ■





*Exhibition*

# FALKLANDS 40

FIND OUT MORE

THE TANK STORY | 1915 - Present Day



# THE TANK STORY

*Exhibition*

Over 30 of the most important armoured fighting vehicles in history tell the story of the tank in context with the tumultuous events of the last century.

Find out how this important British invention has helped shape world history with its domination of the battlefield, and hear fascinating accounts from those who have operated and faced them in combat.





Defence  
Business  
Services

Veterans UK | Armed Forces Pension Scheme | May 2022

# AFPS Quarterly Digest

## 2015 Remedy (McCloud)

As part of the 2015 reforms to most public service pension schemes, those within 10 years of retirement were allowed to remain in their legacy pension scheme. Following legal challenges, in Dec 2018, the Court of Appeal found that these arrangements gave rise to unlawful discrimination against younger members. The Government confirmed that the discrimination applied across the whole of the public sector and would take steps to address it. Pension remedy is being delivered in two stages. The first stage is the

prospective remedy, which saw all service personnel who were still in legacy pension schemes move into AFPS 15 on 1 April 2022. This will ensure equal treatment in the future.

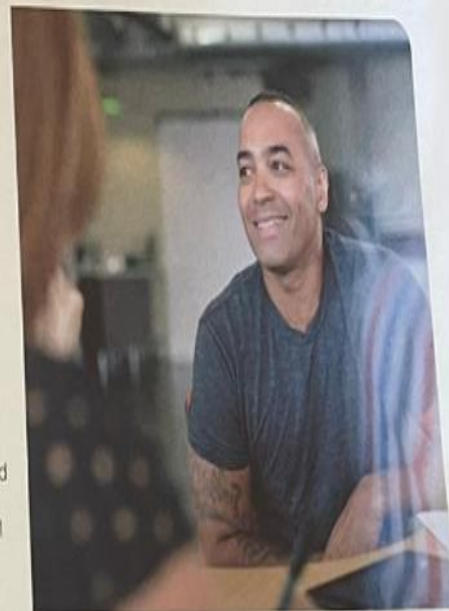
A public consultation was held between 22 Nov 2021 – 31 Jan 2022 on the draft Armed Forces Pensions (Amendment) Regulations 2022 which closed all legacy pension schemes after 31 Mar 2022 and ensures that all Armed Forces personnel remaining in service from that date continue as members of AFPS 15. A

total of 37 responses were received. The MOD reviewed the responses and published a summary on the Armed Forces Pension Page on Gov.uk. None of the responses warranted a change to the regulations and the final version of the regulations were laid in Parliament on 18 Mar 2022.

The second stage is the retrospective remedy. This gives eligible Service personnel an opportunity to choose, when they leave with pension or Early Departure Payment (EDP),

which pension benefits they will receive (legacy scheme, or the equivalent AFPS15 benefits) for the remedy period (1 Apr 2015 – 31 Mar 2022). This is referred to as Deferred Choice Underpin (DCU). The complexity of the retrospective remedy has resulted in a number of cross government policy issues still to be finalised. Once policy is further developed, the AFPS calculator will be enhanced to assist Service personnel in making their DCU election.

Please note, the term McCloud will be phased out of our comms, and from now on, will be referred to as the '2015 Remedy'.





# Divorce & Dissolution

Pensions are one of your most valuable assets, so it is important to understand your pension rights if you and your partner decide to divorce or dissolve your civil partnership.

Your Armed Forces Pension may be part of your divorce settlement. It is therefore important that you understand what pension information you and your legal representatives will need, what your scheme can provide and what crucial information you need to provide to us.

To obtain a cash equivalent transfer value (CETV) for a



divorce, please complete and submit the AFPS Form 19, available at: [bit.ly/AFPSForm19](https://bit.ly/AFPSForm19)

We have published a booklet called Pensions Benefits on Divorce and Dissolution of Civil Partnerships, MMP131, which provides information on Pension Sharing and Pension Attachment Court Orders, it can be found on the Armed

Forces Pensions website: [bit.ly/AFPS-Divorce](https://bit.ly/AFPS-Divorce)

AFPS encourages its members to use a family lawyer if going through a divorce, and either you or your lawyer can engage with us at any point to receive information and guidance specific to the Armed Forces Pension Scheme.

Veterans UK | Armed Forces Pension Scheme | May 2022

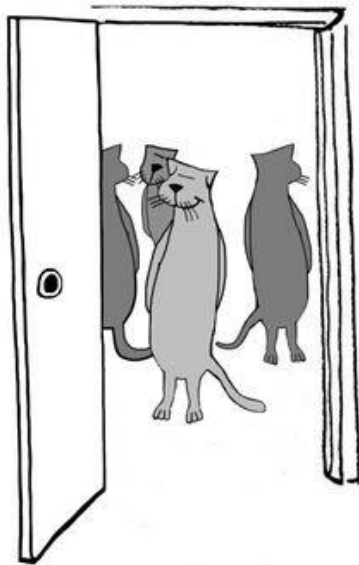






# The Wellbeing Project

12:00 pm with *Ali*



**"This looks like a tough crowd for my Conflict Resolution speech."**



# CAMBERLEY ARMED FORCES DAY

- SATURDAY 18TH JUNE 2022 -

10.00 am - 4.00 pm

CAMBERLEY TOWN CENTRE



This event is brought to you by:  
**Collectively  
Camberley**  
#LoveCamberley







Let's make this a day to remember, come and join in with the Camberley Armed Forces Day Celebrations. Something for everyone to enjoy...

Hey - do you fancy having a stall at Camberley's Armed Forces Day Celebrations,

contact Jodie:

[jodie@collectivelycamberley.co.uk](mailto:jodie@collectivelycamberley.co.uk)

Tel: 01276 255 88 for further information.

Let's make this wonderful day to remember.





**We look forward to  
seeing you sooOOoon...**

Take care  
From the team V&F-LP

All information is correct at the time of going to press & PDF  
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\*Subject to change