

From Kirklees Council Leader, Councillor Cathy

Scott (kirk Lees together) is encouraging everyone to pay
their respects to the armed forces and to those who
have made the ultimate sacrifice.

"Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day are two of the most important days in our diary each year.

"It is a time to reflect on the huge sacrifices made for our freedoms we have today by the very brave people from Britain and across the Commonwealth. "Each year we should pause to remember those in the Armed Forces, those currently serving, veterans and to those that made the ultimate sacrifice.

"Their dedication and commitment to help us through our most challenging times never wavers and neither should ours.





12th November 10.30 at High Cross Church

Followed by a free curry lunch (please book by calling 01276 66798)







Our purpose-built accommodation in Rothbury, Northumberland, will enable you to retain your privacy and independence while living among like-minded people who share a military connection.

Spend summer days basking in the sun in our beautiful, landscaped gardens, enjoy coffee mornings with our friendly residential community, or walk into the welcoming Rothbury village and explore the local amenities on your doorstep.

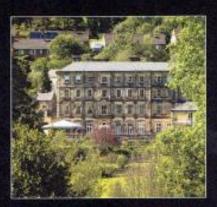
However you choose to spend your time, you can do it safe in the knowledge that we have staff on hand 24 hours a day to help support you as and when required.

What's included

- · All bills · Staff on hand 24 hours a day · Lift · Meals
- · On-site parking · Shared, landscaped garden
- Communal activities, including coffee mornings

Call 0800 018 2361 to organise an experience visit today.

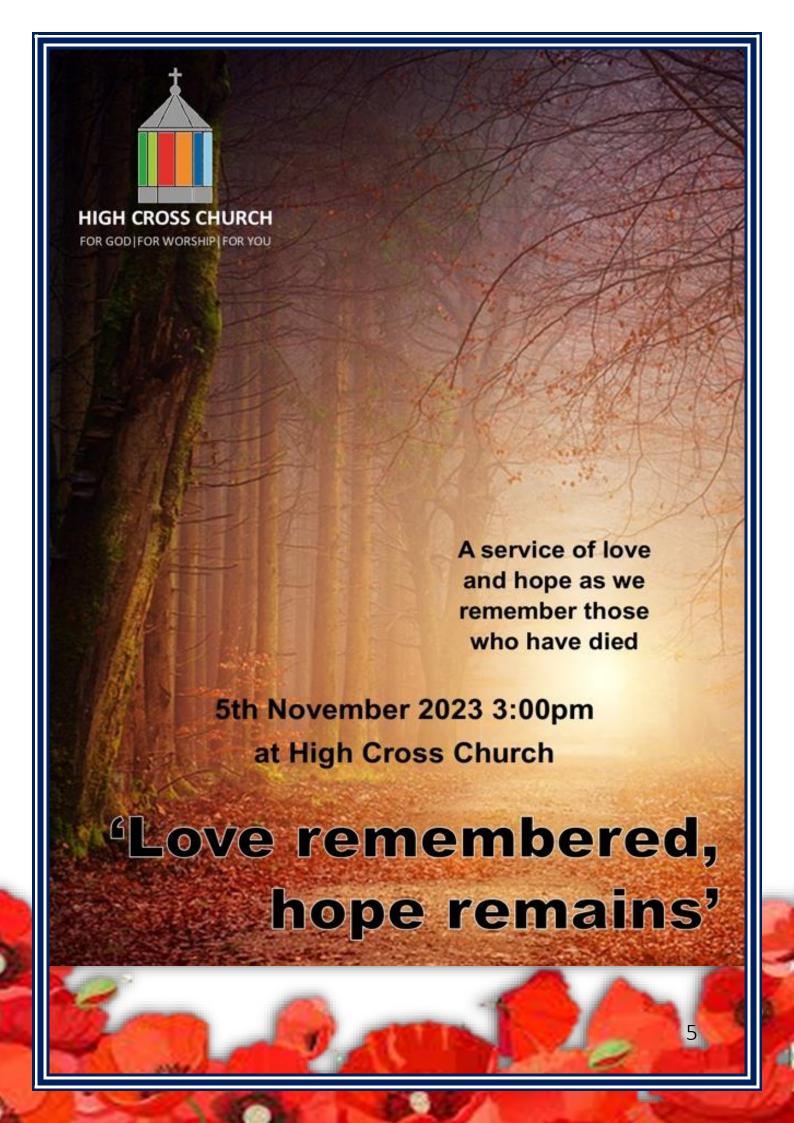






Registered Charity 226686 (England & Wales). SC037673 (Scotland).

Call 0800 018 2361 or visit rafa.org.uk/rothbury







INDEPENDENT RESETTLEMENT & RECRUITMENT GUIDE FOR SERVING ARMED FORCES & VETERANS



LEATHER WORK WORKSHOPS









Come and drop in at High Cross Church Wednesdays and Thursdays 9:30am-12:30pm Adults £3, children (over 8yo) £1

"I wouldn't say flightless, I prefer 'unflappable."

Thousands of veteran cards to be rolled out this year

Thousands more veterans will receive HM Armed Forces Veteran Cards by the end of the year thanks to a £3 million injection to expand the roll-out to veterans who left service before 2018.



Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Rt Hon Johnny Mercer MP hands veterans their newly printed HM Armed Forces Veteran Cards.

www.gov.uk/government/news/thousands-of-veteran-cards-tobe-rolled-out-this-year Accessed Online 23.10.23

Thousands of veteran cards to be rolled out this year



- Veterans' Minister Johnny Mercer has visited a MOD printing facility at HMS Sultan in Gosport
- Government has invested £3m to scale up production of HM Armed Forces Veteran Cards to 50,000 cards a month
- Thousands of veterans will be able to apply for an ID card this year, with new option to apply online

Thousands more veterans will receive HM Armed Forces Veteran Cards by the end of the year thanks to a £3 million injection to expand the roll-out to veterans who left service before 2018.

The ID card will allow veterans to quickly and easily prove thei veteran status where required, granting them simpler access to key support from the NHS, charities and local authorities. They can also be used to apply for Defence Discount Service Cards and the Veterans Railcard.

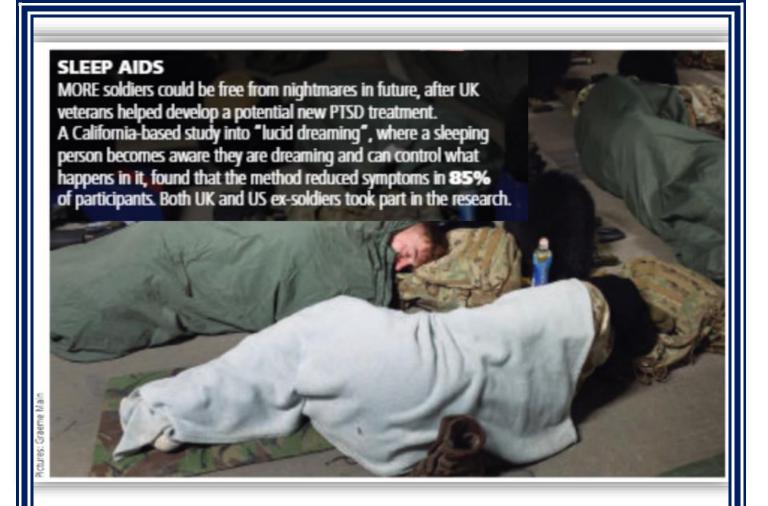
Veterans' Minister Johnny Mercer visited a facility in Gosport today to see progress made on the ID card rollout, and met with veterans who are already benefiting from the scheme.

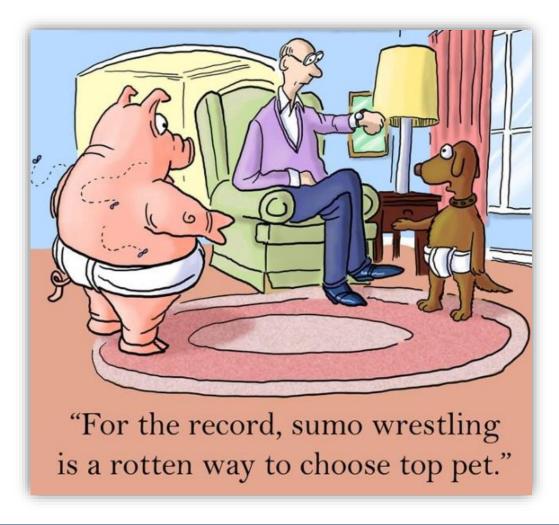




The following articles were sourced from this month's Soldier magazine: www.army.mod.uk/news-and-events/soldier-magazine news@soldiermagazine.co.uk







COMPENSATION CALL

EGAL eagles are calling on former soldiers to sit on the expert panels that determine military compensation cases.

They are asking for ex-senior NCOs and officers to help resolve appeals brought by past and present personnel against decisions relating to their pensions or compensation.

Chosen candidates will form part of a three-strong group responsible for examining evidence as part of the War Pensions and Armed Forces Compensation Tribunal Chamber.

Working alongside a judge and a medical specialist, they will be responsible for providing an opinion based on their first-hand experience of Army life.

Chamber president Judge Fiona Monk said former personnel were a crucial element of the expert panels – helping to inform cases arising from the Armed Forces compensation scheme.

"Those unhappy with the outcome of a claim relating to their military service will see the case come before us," the senior lawyer (right) added.

"Our remit covers England and Wales – and we need people to give 15-30 hours per year."

Candidates must have left service in the last five years and if commissioned should be at the rank of major or above. They receive training and are paid for their time.

"Serving personnel are also encouraged to come forward," Judge Monk continued.

"Being a member of the panel is intellectually stimulating though also demanding – they could be expected to sit through three or four cases per day.

"Their contribution is vital — they carry out an important public service in providing us with advice based on their experience."

FACTFILE:

The War Pensions and Armed Forces Compensation Chamber

- ▲ Tracing its roots back to 1917, it hears matters relating to both serving and former military personnel.
- ▲ Most of the issues revolve around whether a claimant is entitled to a payment or whether they have been correctly assessed.
- ▲ Their injury or condition needs to relate to their service but does not have to be as a result of combat.
- ▲ There are three full-time judges in the chamber, with appeals averaging around 2,500 per year.

Find out more about the role by visiting:

judicialappointments.gov.uk/vacancies/131

The pension calculator

Why - and how - you should be using it

IT'S tempting to ignore your pension, but it pays to be clued up on your entitlement – and the Armed Porces pension calculator is a good place to start.

This handy online tool was updated recently to better reflect people's different circumstances, including additional contributions, pension sharing orders and more.

Longer serving personnel affected by the so-called McCloud remedy can also now see how their benefits could change (see box below).

But no matter what stage of career you are at, everyone should check out the calculator, says Cpl Cameron Eden (RLC), whose YouTube channel, The Savvy Squaddie, aims to increase financial literacy among troops.

"It might be way down the line for many people, but the earlier you begin to plan the better," he emphasises.

"The average pension pot of a retiree is currently around £70,000 – but the recommended amount is more than £250,000 – so unless you take an interest, retirement might be a struggle for you."

Still unsure? Check out Cpl Eden's answers to some frequently asked questions...

WHAT INFO DO I NEED TO USE IT?

Having details like rank, pay, dates of promotion, joining date and projected end date will make it quicker. The calculator tailors options based on your service history so the more you provide, the more accurate the forecast will be.

WHY BOTHER? I RECEIVE A YEARLY STATEMENT ANYWAY

The tool offers many more functions than the benefit information statement. It gives predictions for different scenarios, helping you choose the best path. For example, you can input an earlier end date and see how that would affect your overall pension benefits.

5,632

6

3

WHY IS THAT IMPORTANT?

Because it can be the deciding factor in whether you leave or complete a full career. The difference in benefits can be tens of thousands of pounds. The so-called "pension trap" is real, but that is because the pension is so good. Completing a full career will leave you with a pot over the recommended amount and you'll be able to enjoy your golden years.

WHAT ELSE DOES IT DO?

It gives projections for commutation (your tax-free lump sum) and inverse commutation (when you forego your lump sum to increase your taxable pension income), as well as the early departure payment (see Soldier, September). All of these features allow the user to make more informed decisions that will set them up for future financial success and security.

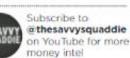
EXPLAINED: MCCLOUD REMEDY

Following a court ruling, personnel who were previously on Armed Forces pension schemes 75 and 05, but were forced to transfer to AFPS 15, now have the choice to remain on their old scheme for the seven-year period between April 1, 2015 and March 31, 2022

Visit the Armed Forces pension calculator here







24 NOVEMBER 2023 soldlermagazine.co.uk

ON THE MARCH

As a cash crisis threatens local remembrance parades, public pressure is making a difference...



IM Rosenthal still remembers growing up in a family touched by war – a household bearing the loss of a son who was taken well before his time.

Exactly seven decades after the end of the Korean conflict the senior Anglican priest emotionally recalls the strain his half-brother's death placed on his mother and father. In a world then living in the shadow of the Second World War, the UN action in the face of communist aggression left thousands of troops dead and wounded.

"Alfred had been serving with the United States Army and was only 22 when we lost him in 1951," Rosenthal – who was raised in Chicago, Illinois, before settling in the UK after his ordination as a priest – tells Soldier.

"Like so many families in our situation, I don't think ours was ever the same again – we did not fully recover from his death and it was an awful thing."

Rosenthal (pictured right) pauses as he surveys the roll of honour in the church near Redhill, Surrey, ahead of the service he will lead on Remembrance Sunday – a time when the impact of a sibling's passing again resonates into the present day. He says being with his local congregation helps him deal with loss.

"Conflict has touched so many of us in different ways, so I think it's important for everyone to come together when we think about service and sacrifice," he adds. "We gain strength from having community around us."

The vicar – a former director of communications with the Church of England – always fields a decent turnout for his service. There will be a parade at a memorial in a neighbouring community too, fronted by Royal British Legion members.

It is a familiar and well-observed ritual that has been carried out around the UK since the First World War era. In an age of austerity, however, many towns and villages have found themselves at something of a crossroads with remembrance. In a society still battling to deal with the legacy of Covid, the cost and admin of holding ceremonies has been proving prohibitive.

But public feeling - it seems - still runs deep when it comes

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to honouring those lost in conflict, and this has been instrumental in saving local events from cancellation. Well over a century since the first services were carried out following the Great War, a nation still believes steadfastly in pausing to remember lives lost as well as those changed forever.

It is, ironically, the dry subject of traffic management protocols at parades in England and Wales that has recently brought the depth of feeling to the fore.

Although councils have long had a legal responsibility for the service, often delegated to private contractors, the police have

usually provided a helping hand, particularly at some smaller gatherings. But with cash-strapped chief constables now focusing precious resources on fighting crime, the axe fell on some events in 2022 and more have been under threat this year.

The exact number of marches affected is unclear but
Knaresborough – a community with a long-established parade
– is one high-profile case in point. After North Yorkshire Police
said it could no longer provide traffic management, individuals
were swift to voice their anger, and as this issue went to press
the town council agreed to step in and pay for private marshals.

"It was a bolt from the blue, to be honest – the force wrote to explain their position over the summer, which didn't give us much room for manoeuvre," says David Houlgate (pictured below), vice-chairman of the town's Royal British Legion branch. "We were one of several events affected by the decision.

"Our parade is large – it has a marching band with veterans and trainees from Army Foundation College Harrogate among

serving personnel taking part," he adds. "People were shocked when they heard it could be cancelled and they made their feelings known – particularly across social media."

Some questioned the police action – prompting the force to clarify the reasons for its decision – while others simply wanted local commemorations

THE LEGION POSITION

The national Royal British Legion has stressed that the organisation of traffic management and road closures at parades needs to be handled by local authorities. A policy update said that the duty needed to be "left to the experts" — adding that "the longstanding position of the Legion is that local remembrance parades are a civic responsibility."



b) to continue, according to Houlgate. "The community element is important," he adds.

There was a similar outpouring of support across Wales, where parades faced the chop in the wake of the cash crisis last year.

Communities seethed with anger as the public made it known that remembrance was non-negotiable.

The cancellation of a 2022 event in Caldicot in Gwent proved particularly contentious.

Following the withdrawal of police support, councillors found themselves grappling with cash questions over paying for private contractors.

As a community hit back, the depth of feeling saw the town become news in one national tabloid. "Disgusts me: Fury as town's Remembrance Day parade scrapped as road closure too pricey", read the

headline. But Gordon Hill, county secretary of The Royal British Legion in Gwent, says that local authorities have shown backing for parades in 2023, with most commemorations going ahead as scheduled this remembrance season.

"It clearly still means a huge amount to people," Hill, who served as a Reservist with the Royal Military Police, adds. "Yes, it is about the community coming together but there are also individuals who know the names on our memorials – they have a personal connection to those people.

ROAD RULES

Local authorities have long held the responsibility for road closures under the Traffic Management Act 2004. This has often meant paying private companies to oversee safety at remembrance parades.

While the police have helped at smaller events, national guidance issued to forces from their professional bodies, the National Police Chiefs' Council and College of Policing, has stressed they should not enforce road closures except in an emergency. It has also been suggested that chief constables focus resources on dealing with priorities such as crime and antisocial behaviour.

This has led some forces such as North Yorkshire to pull back from policing parades. The organisation's assistant chief constable, Elliot Foskett, emphasised that this did not mean shunning support for the commemorations, pointing out that officers would be involved with activities including wreath laying: "We will still be attending services in uniform," he added.

together and honour the fallen.

"We have a very good relationship with our councils here – they have grasped the nettle and are tackling the issues around parades really well."

Serving soldiers, it seems, also believe the local element of remembrance is important. Community is crucial for LCpl Jess Cutter (REME, pictured left), who maintains that being with friends and family is very much her preferred way to reflect.

"Although I've served in the Army for the last ten years, I'd still rather go home than be at a large military parade – it's just more personal," the 26-year-old NCO, who is based at Larkhill, adds.

"I come from Basingstoke in Hampshire, and remember attending services as a child – the community element, in particular having people that you know and are close to you around, has always been important for me."

The response is certainly heartening. In an age where many do not have a link to the Armed Forces, even among their older relatives, it is extraordinary that people still connect with remembrance – and want the time and space within their own town or

While pressures on the public purse are set to continue for

village to reflect on lives lost in conflict.



Sailors meet with Britain's oldest surviving World War Two veteran during Caribbean deployment



Britain's oldest surviving female World War Two veteran met sailors from Britain's most advanced destroyer during a port stop in Barbados.

HMS Dauntless is patrolling the Caribbean Sea, hunting drugs smugglers and helping British Overseas Territories during the region's hurricane season.

During a visit to Barbados – which also included a beach cleanup and community outreach – Dauntless' Commanding Officer, Commander Ben Dorrington, Petty Officer Corinne Adams and the ship's chaplain, Reverend Janice Honey Morgan visited 106year-old Ena Collymore-Woodstock.





After seeing a recruitment advert in 1943, Jamaican-born Ena was one of the first women to sail from the Caribbean and join the Auxiliary Territorial Service – which tasked women with a range of vital roles in the war effort – to help defeat Hitler.

Ena survived a torpedo attack during her Atlantic voyage to the UK and was posted in a clerical role at the War Office due to her background as a court typist at home in Kingston.





Ross' RN RIB ride kicks off £1m Poppy Day drive across the capital





Actor and gritty documentary maker Ross Kemp brushed off Storm Ciaran to kick off a £1m Poppy Appeal fundraising day in the capital courtesy of the Royal Navy.

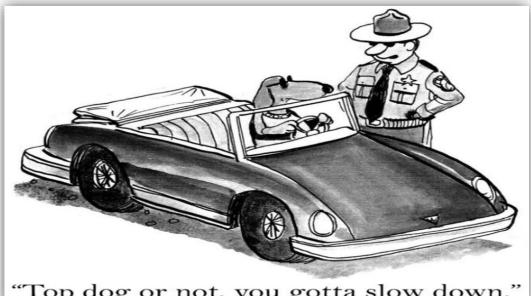
The former EastEnder and presenter of a string of hard-hitting real life shows was delivered to the heart of Westminster courtesy of a RIB from HMS President.

It was the signal for around 2,000 personnel from all three services to begin rattling tins at 70 sites around London on behalf of the Royal British Legion and the biggest street collection of its kind in Europe.

Just in case they missed the military personnel on station concourses, musician and TV presenter Jools Holland and DJ Ken Bruce recorded announcements encouraging people to dip into their pockets.

Ross (and the crew from London's Royal Naval Reserve HQ) braved the elements for the blustery 21/2-mile ride up the Thames from HMS President, at St Katherine Dock, to Westminster Pier in the shadow of Big Ben, stepping back on land at 7am.





"Top dog or not, you gotta slow down."

WW2 veteran Jack celebrates centenary with Plymouth sailors





Sailors from Devonport joined Plymouth WW2 veteran Jack Glover as he celebrated his 100th birthday.

With a card from their majesties the King and Queen, Jack was surrounded by friends, family and Commander Martin Malone, Executive Officer of Devonport Naval Base, and Base Warrant Officer Warrant Officer 1 Steve Harvey for an unforgettable centennial bash in one of Plymouth's premier hotels.

WW2 veteran Jack celebrates centenary with Plymouth sailors





The man all were gathered to honour served in every theatre of war - Atlantic, Arctic, Mediterranean and, finally, the Far East - during the Navy's and nation's sternest test.

Originally from Leeds, Jack served aboard Dido-class cruiser HMS Royalist, seeing action in the Atlantic theatre and the Arctic Convoys as well as escorting aircraft carriers launching strikes against the German battleship Tirpitz hiding in Norwegian waters.

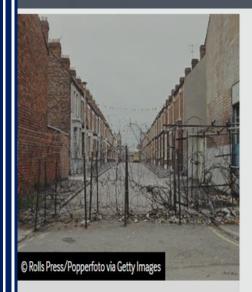
The ship also saw action in the Mediterranean, taking part in the landings in southern France and the Aegean before deploying to the Far East, taking part in the liberation of Rangoon, Burma, and once again supporting carrier groups of the Pacific Fleet in the final battles with the Empire of Japan.

Aboard HMS Royalist Jack's job was a message decoder, responsible for communicating with Naval HQs and other warships, as well as intercepting signals from the German Navy.

Weather conditions and sea states on the Arctic Convoys were severe for both the ships and the men onboard who were also at action stations, contending with attacks from the Luftwaffe and U-boats as well as the elements.



IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUMS







EXHIBITIONS AND INSTALLATIONS

Northern Ireland: Living with the Troubles

IWM London 26 May 2023 to 7 January 2024 TALKS AND TOURS

Volunteer Insights: 10 Minute Talks at HMS Belfast

HMS Belfast Subject to availability FOR FAMILIES

Story Seekers IWM North - weekends

IWM North Every weekend

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V&F-LP is an independent member of ASDIC. The association of Ex-Service Drop-in Centres. Linking Veterans' Drop-ins together across the United Kingdom.



NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM - a place to remember

For many service families, Remembrance Sunday is an important date in the calendar, with many seizing the opportunity to join their local communities in commemorating those lost in the service of the country, while also paying tribute to their loved ones still serving today.

This Remembrance Sunday (12 November), thousands of veterans, serving personnel and members of the public from all over the country will also be coming together at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire for a service at the iconic Armed Forces Memorial.

The Arboretum is the Nation's year-round place to Remember everyone who serves our country in the Armed Forces, emergency services and community voluntary groups. The gigantic Portland stone walls of the Armed Forces Memorial carry more than 16,000 names of service personnel who have been killed whilst on duty, died in operational theatre or were targeted by terrorists since the end of the Second World War. Tragically, new names are added every year, with the walls designed to accommodate thousands of further inscriptions.

The Remembrance Sunday Service of Remembrance is free and open to anyone who would like to participate, advance booking is recommended to guarantee entry and to save on parking. Following the service, visitors can explore the I 50-acres of gardens and woodlands at the Arboretum which are home to over 400 memorials, many of which are





NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM - a place to remember

dedicated to individual Royal Air Force squadrons, past and present.

However, as the Nation's year-round place to Remember, visitors can uncover the incredible stories of service and sacrifice whatever time of year they visit, aided by a packed programme of events, activities and exhibitions.

The Arboretum is a fantastic place for families and friends to meet up at weekends or during the school holidays with activities



including the Stick Man trail, craft and storytelling. Every year in June there is a huge weekend-long, celebration for Armed Forces Weekend and this winter Illuminated Arboretum, a spectacular festive light trail, is returning to the Arboretum between 7–23 December.

The National Memorial Arboretum is open and free to visit every day of the year except Christmas Day and advance booking online is recommended to save on parking. To arrange your visit or to buy tickets for Illuminated Arboretum and other events, visit www.thenma.org.uk

Envoy Magazine Envoy magazine for RAF families at home and overseas. REMEMBERANCE NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM — A PLACE TO REMEMBER 21

NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM - a place to remember





Envoy Magazine

Envoy magazine for RAF families at home and overseas.

REMEMBERAN CE NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM — A PLACE TO REMEMBER



Have YOU got what it takes to bake in the tent?

Love Productions are looking for the next batch of bakers for the fifteenth series of The Great British Bake Off.

If you or someone you know is a talented home baker then apply now at www.applyforbakeoff.co.uk or email us on applyforbakeoff@loveproductions.co.uk or call 0117 456 8530 for an application form.

Closing date for applications is 1pm on Tuesday 2nd January 2024.

If you would like any more information or help in applying, please do get in touch. You can call us on 0117 456 8530 or email applyforbakeoff@loveproductions.co.uk





We're all barking at something..."



Time to Talk Befriending

Connecting people in **Runnymede and Surrey** Heath who want someone to talk to with volunteer befrienders.

Find out more



www.voluntarysupport.org.uk/time-to-talk

Veterans UK

28 October 2022 — News story

Learning from our

experiences togetherfurther updates

Committed to listening to veterans and improving our services. Our customer journey maps to help with Armed Forces compensation and pensions are now online.

www.gov.uk/government/news/learningfrom-our-experiences-together





6 October 2022 — News story

Serving the Veteran better

MOD's Veterans UK

welcomes veterans

feedback on its services

For MOD's Veterans UK, listening to and learning about how veterans access and experience their services is extremely important.

www.gov.uk/government/news/serving-theveteran-better-mods-veterans-uk-welcomesveterans-feedback-on-its-services



Contact Veterans UK

Veterans UK helpline

Veterans UK

Ministry of Defence

Norcross

Thornton Cleveleys

FY5 3WP

United Kingdom

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Email

veterans-uk@mod.gov.uk

Freephone (UK only):

0808 1914 2 18

Telephone (overseas):

+44 1253 866 043



Saturday 11th of November (Armistice Day) Remembrance Saturday at Guildford Fire Station.

We will be holding afternoon tea from 16.00 until 18.00.

This will consist of scones, cakes, sandwiches, Teas, Coffee ETC.

At 17.50 we will make our way to the appliance bays and will be stood to attention.

We will be presented with a rendition of the poem "In Flanders Field" which will be followed by the last post.

The attendees will be stood down and the event will conclude.

It would be fantastic to see of all services including blue light and military represented at the event.

If you are coming can you please let me know to allow for catering requirements.

If you have any dietary requirements please let me know.

PS for your information our ex services veterans hubs now have our own badge/insignia which we will use to put on mugs ETC. An example of which is below and will appear on any future documentation and or memorabilia.

As you can see it consists of a standard veterans badge and added is a flag which consists of the colours of the emergency services.





10.30 - 12.30 Last Thursday of every month





Guildford Fire Station By-Pass, Ladymead Guildford GU11DL



