

Veterans WORLD

Issue 38



Helping With
The Biggest Move
Of Their Life

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Veterans WORLD

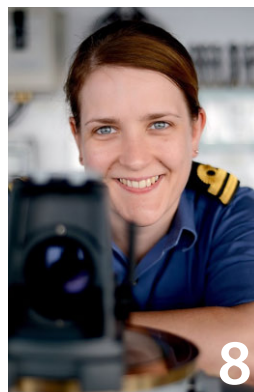
Veterans World is distributed to those who work in an advisory role.

April 2016

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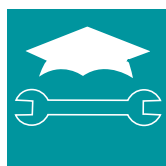


The aim of *Veterans World* is to provide up to date information on services, support and advice for the Veterans community, in particular those who act in an advisory role.

We know, from engaging with our customers, charitable organisations and partners that the key issues for the Veterans community are:



Healthcare



Education/
Training/
Employment



Accommodation
& Housing



Family Matters



Working in
Partnership

Articles in this and future issues of *Veterans World* will be about a service, initiative or event that is focussed around one of these themes. The icon and colours at the top of each page will continue the theme so that you can see at a glance the topic of the article.

At a Glance...

MOD Referral Scheme



The MOD Referral Scheme is coordinated by the Joint Service Housing Advice Office to assist some service leavers to get accommodation via housing associations. The MOD have recognised that some service leavers have difficulty in accessing social and affordable housing. Through this scheme the donating housing associations are able to help people who may have specific problems get prioritised high enough to have a realistic chance of being housed by local authorities. Search for MOD referral scheme at: www.gov.uk

Round Table Armed Forces Scheme



Round Table is calling for serving and ex-service personnel to get on parade and head to their local Round Table. Clubs offer men aged 18-45 a fantastic social life, as well as a chance to contribute to the local community. All serving and ex-service personnel who join will receive six months free membership.
Tel: 0121 456 4402
Text: 'Join' and your postcode to 60066
Web: www.roundtable.co.uk/armed-forces-scheme

Salute Our Forces this summer: Hold an Armed Forces Day event



Local communities can show their support for service personnel past and present this summer, with up to £10,000 available to help fund an Armed Forces Day celebration in their local area. To find out more about the application process and funding criteria, contact the Ministry of Defence Armed Forces Day team:
Tel: 020 7807 0970.
Email: armedforcesday-events@mod.uk
Web: www.armedforcesday.org.uk

Outreach Service



Stoll has launched a new transition outreach service and is calling on service personnel to think about life after the Armed Forces at least six months prior to leaving. Stoll aims to help veterans lead full, independent lives as soon as possible after discharge and believes that by starting support with the transition process early, they have a better chance of success in civilian life.

Tel: 020 7385 2110 or 07885 806986
Email: Samantha.barber@stoll.org.uk

Remembrance Centre taking shape



The highest stone to clad the roof of the new £15.7m Remembrance Centre at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire was put in place at a topping out ceremony in March. The ceremony marks the half-way point in the construction of the centre which is on schedule for completion in autumn 2016. The centre will educate, inform and inspire visitors to the Arboretum, part of The Royal British Legion, which currently draws up to 500,000 visitors per year. www.thenma.org.uk

Pensions for life reminder



Surviving spouses and partners can retain their Armed Forces Widow/Widowers pension if they entered a new relationship from 1 April 2015. The payment isn't subject to means testing in these circumstances. If your personal circumstances have changed since that date you may be eligible to have your Widow/Widowers pension reinstated. If you would like to talk to someone about this please **contact** Veterans UK on 0808 1914 2 18.

Compensation for veterans with cancer caused by asbestos



On 16 December 2015 an announcement was made about changes to the War Pension Scheme

legislation relating to veterans who have been diagnosed with diffuse mesothelioma, as a result of exposure to asbestos due to their service in the Armed Forces.

Minister for Defence Personnel and Veterans, Mark Lancaster MP, said:

"I have decided that a policy change is required to introduce enhanced arrangements for mesothelioma sufferers. These veterans protected the nation with honour, courage and commitment, and we have listened to their concerns to ensure they are treated with the fairness and respect they deserve."

Initially the changes only applied to those who were diagnosed after that date, however on 29 February this year, the Minister further announced that the option of receiving a lump sum of £140,000 will be extended to include:

- Veterans already in receipt of a War Disablement Pension for diffuse mesothelioma, and;
- Veterans who have yet to have a claim accepted for War Disablement Pension for diffuse mesothelioma.

The changes mean that veterans diagnosed with the condition and whose condition was as a result of exposure to asbestos, that is due to their military service prior to 6 April 2005, will have the option of either receiving a lump sum of £140,000 or having regular payments from the War Pension Scheme, regardless of the date they were diagnosed.

For those who decide to opt for the lump sum option, this replaces the War Disablement Pension and any Supplementary Allowances, War Widow(er)'s Pension and associated allowances. Payments that have already been made to that point will be deducted from the lump sum, which also may be reduced to take into account other compensation already received for the same condition.

For those with mobility needs, arrangements can be made for the Ministry of Defence to make payments to Motability on their behalf, which are deducted from the lump sum. The changes to the scheme underline the government's commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant. The Covenant is a promise from the nation ensuring that those who serve and have served are treated fairly.



Mesothelioma is a cancer mainly caused by exposure to asbestos some 40 years or more before diagnosis and there is a short life expectancy afterwards. As such, it is important to ensure the MOD offers the right support to those affected by this disease.

The War Pensions Scheme, which is administered by Veterans UK, provides regular payments for dependents. However, comparisons have been made with the recently introduced Diffuse Mesothelioma Payment Scheme, which provides lump sums for eligible civilians.

The Royal British Legion asked the MOD to consider offering lump sums - the MOD has listened and has ensured veterans are not disadvantaged when compared to their civilian counterparts.

The MOD's Veterans Welfare Service is on hand to help claimants understand the provision and the choices in their own particular circumstances.

Individuals who would like help from the Veterans Welfare Service, or would like more information can contact the Veterans UK Helpline on 0808 1914 2 18.

Education - A lasting legacy

Families of service personnel killed on active duty can benefit from higher and further education scholarships.

The Armed Forces Bereavement Scholarship Scheme provides higher education and university scholarships for the children of Servicemen and women who have died on active duty since 1990 and whose death was attributable to their Service in the Armed Forces.

The scheme offers a scholarship of £1500 per year to enable a bereaved child to stay in higher education and gain the qualifications necessary to obtain a place at university. The scheme does not pay for vocational courses.

The scholarship will normally be paid for two years but may be extended to three years if required by the syllabus. There is no obligation to go on to university once further education has ended.

For university degrees (further education) a maximum of £9,000 for tuition fees and £4,950 for maintenance towards the cost of a first undergraduate degree can be paid. As tuition fees vary across the UK according to home address and place of study, the scholarship is adjusted to provide a similar level of support to all applicants across the UK. The scheme cannot be extended in order to repeat part of a syllabus or retake exams.

Charlotte's story

Charlotte's* father was killed while serving in Afghanistan and she sat her GCSE's shortly after, achieving excellent grades.

She struggled to come to terms with the loss of her father while studying for her A levels but with the financial support provided by the scheme was able to go on to university, and was awarded a First Class Honours degree.

"I would like to say that the Scholarship programme has given me so much more than a better quality of life and a new found confidence. It has given me the closure that I need to be certain that I have made my Dad proud, and that is the best gift I could ever have received."

There is no upper age limit for applications so if you are a bereaved child and returning to full time higher or further education after a gap you will be eligible to receive funding providing you haven't previously received a scholarship from the scheme for that level of study.

Payments are made three times per year by 31 October, 31 January and 30 April or as soon as confirmation has been received from the education establishment that the student has registered and is attending the specified course. Payments are not liable for Income Tax or means testing.

For more information about the Armed Forces Bereavement Scholarship Scheme please visit GOV.UK www.gov.uk/support-military-bereaved-children

* names have been changed





Stop Press! Taking Pride in Progress



Maybe Magazine, a social enterprise and publisher based in Bletchley Park, Milton Keynes, is offering 15 unemployed Armed Forces veterans the opportunity to gain valuable experience in the media industry. The project, Taking Pride in Progress is funded by The Royal British Legion and provides ex-Service personnel the opportunity to work on producing a World War Two commemorative magazine for Buckinghamshire.

Veterans can gain skills in all areas of putting together a magazine, including research, writing, graphic design, content planning and photography, as well as gaining professional career advice. The project will run until December 2016, with magazine training sessions taking place at The Royal British Legion Pop In Centre, Aylesbury and Bletchley Park throughout the year. Ex-Service personnel are encouraged to get involved at any point throughout the project. There is no minimum time commitment and veterans do not have to live in Buckinghamshire.

This is a fantastic opportunity to try something new, learn new skills and meet like-minded people. All participants will have the opportunity for their name to be credited in the magazine, which can act as a powerful tool for future employment. Maybe Magazine has delivered similar training to over 4,000 people, of which 66 per cent have gone back into employment following their training.

Project Manager, Gemma Holsgrove said: "We are thrilled to have received funding from The Royal British Legion as this will help us provide an opportunity for ex-Service personnel, and their families, to retrain in an industry that offers an array of possibilities for career development. With the professional expertise of Maybe Magazine, those

involved will receive full training and career advice and support, as well as being part of a production team that will publish a commemorative World War Two magazine."

“those involved will receive full training and career advice and support”

In addition to the opportunities available for Service veterans, WorksforUs, a Milton Keynes based charity are offering families of ex-Service personnel the opportunity to take part in a variety of activities and workshops, all for FREE. Just as the transition from military to civilian life can be difficult for veterans, family members often find this a difficult time too.

What's on offer for family members:

- Monthly meet-ups in a supportive environment with other families
- Develop new friendships with like-minded people
- Build confidence and help organise enjoyable family activities
- Wide range of interesting and fun activities
- A chance to share stories of Service life

Family members do not have to live in Buckinghamshire or have a veteran spouse or partner involved in the magazine training to be involved – all ex-Service family members are welcome.

To get involved contact:

Tel: 07796 244335

Email: gemma@maybemagazine.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/maybemagazine

Twitter: @MaybeMagazine



A Home from Home

"They have literally saved my life and given me hope and support for the future."



HOMES FOR VETERANS

SUPPORTING HOMELESS VETERANS



2016 is already turning out to be a busy year for veterans charity, Homes for Veterans, as they see their homeless support services for some of the country's most vulnerable veterans increase rapidly.

This year has already seen the opening of Ty Dwer, a purpose built, state of the art home for 12 veterans in Wrexham, which sees their provision for veterans in North Wales rise from ten bed spaces to 23. The project has been developed in partnership with First Choice Housing Association and was funded using MOD Veterans' Accommodation Fund monies to help support veterans who are struggling with the transition to civilian life. Homes for Veterans is an initiative of Alabaré, a charity who have been caring for the South West and Wales' most vulnerable people for 25 years by providing shelter and practical and emotional support. Homes for Veterans was launched when the charity identified a need for bespoke homeless services for those in the veterans community who were struggling to adjust to life in the civilian world. Homes for Veterans now has 24 homes across the South West of England and Wales and can accommodate up to 127 residents at any one time.

The pace won't be slowing down either as they continue to work closely with other service charities and civilian providers to ensure that veterans receive the best possible support and care. In South Wales, a partnership with housing provider Gwalia will see Homes for Veterans provide support to veterans in the redeveloped Clydach War Memorial Hospital near Swansea. They'll also be working with Our Enterprise, Wilton Community Land Trust and Redrow Homes in Salisbury, Wiltshire, who are

building a new 45 unit veteran campus or 'Veterans Village' at the former Land Command HQ site at Wilton Hill. Homes for Veterans will be providing specialist support for the residents of 12 of the homes in Wiltshire's first purpose built community for vulnerable veterans, helping them to get back on their feet.

Homes for Veterans supports veterans like Rhys*, who was referred to them by a Community Care Society who had some very real concerns for his health and wellbeing.

In 2015, Rhys moved into one of their homes in Carmarthenshire where, with the help of a team of experts, he was able to begin to rebuild his life. Rhys says, "When I came to Alabaré's Wales Homes for Veterans I was in a very bad place. I had no support from anyone and life seemed very bleak indeed.

When I met my support worker he was very calm, listened to what I had to say and showed me that there is always a solution.

Accepting the accommodation from Wales Homes for Veterans has changed my life and without them I do not know where I would be now. Their support has allowed me to take steps that, four months ago, I would never have thought possible. I am moving into my own place, getting a new passport and hoping to travel again, and I have the confidence to enter into a new relationship.

I cannot praise the work that Homes for Veterans and Alabaré do highly enough. They have literally saved my life and given me hope and support for the future."

For more information on the work that Homes for Veterans does, visit www.homesforveterans.co.uk

* names have been changed

Shoulder to Shoulder - Shipmates & OPPOS



ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

Shipmates & Oppos: The support programme for leavers of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines.

The programme helps service leavers make the transition to a new civilian life and career. It's the 'arm around your shoulder' for what's often a stressful time of adjustment and uncertainty. With so many charities and organisations offering help, the programme helps individuals find the right path to the assistance they seek. It's also the introduction to the various associations which can provide practical, financial and social support, and help leavers stay connected to the naval service family for years to come.

The programme, funded by Greenwich Hospital and administered by the Royal Naval Association, supports leavers during the important five years post-discharge.

Joining the programme is **free** and many have already benefited from the offer.

Who is it for?

The programme is for leavers of (or those about to leave) the Royal Navy, the Royal Marines, QARNNS, the respective Reserves, or the Royal Fleet Auxiliary. The programme is open to all former Ratings, Other Ranks and Officers, regardless of length of service (or whether they have been medically discharged).

What is provided?

The programme provides advice on a full range of subjects including:

- Financial Assistance
- Debt
- Housing
- Employment
- Discounts for the Service and ex-Service community
- Camaraderie through related associations
- Valedictory certificates
- Medals
- Pensions

Facing Eviction?

The programme received a request for assistance from a couple who were both ex-Royal Navy with four children under 9 years. They had been evicted from their privately rented house due to arrears in their rent. They were not entitled to council accommodation as they were deemed to have made themselves intentionally homeless. The programme put them in contact with SSAFA and Veterans Scotland.

Unemployed and struggling?

A female Royal Naval Reserve (RNR) Rating contacted the programme stating she was unemployed apart from her commitment to the RNR and was struggling to make ends meet. The programme successfully recommended confiding in her RNR Divisional Officer and to contact the Royal Naval Benevolent Trust.

To join the programme and get the advice you need, contact:

Tel: 023 9272 0782

Email: shipmatesandoppos@royalnavalassoc.com

Web: www.shipmatesandoppos.org.uk



Pioneering medical welfare service goes further...



Back: Mark Woodland, Welfare Officer DMWS, Lord Peter Smith, Leader Wigan Council and Chair of the Greater Manchester Health Partnership, Linda Fisher, Lead Officer for Armed Forces in Wigan and Greater Manchester.

Front: Jack Gordon, 92 years old, WW2 Royal Navy Veteran and Burma Star campaign veteran from Ashton in Makerfield Wigan, John Burns, Veteran and Chairman of the Ashton in Makerfield Wigan branch of the RBL and Ron Butterfield, Ex Royal Marine.



Thanks to the successful pilot of an integrated medical welfare service for Armed Forces families in Wigan Borough, the emotional and practical support provided by the Defence Medical Welfare Service (DMWS) will now be rolled out across Greater Manchester hospitals.

The partnership formed between DMWS, Wigan Council, local health service providers and the voluntary sector has seen specialised welfare support for Armed Forces families be delivered across the borough in hospitals or in community based health centres.

As the eight month pilot at Wigan Infirmary was so successful and through the development of this partnership, Lisa Leece (Head of Commissioning and Performance at DMWS) and Linda Fisher (Lead Officer for the Armed Forces in Wigan and Greater Manchester) successfully secured funding from the Aged Veterans Fund, to implement this approach across Greater Manchester.

Lisa Leece said: "We are really pleased to be working with Wigan Council, and to have piloted the project at the

Wigan Infirmary. We have been overwhelmed by the positive response to the work of our Welfare Officers and the difference we can make by working together. Over 60 per cent of our Welfare Officers are from an Armed Forces background and all of our officers are specially trained in this field. This gives them a real sense of understanding and enables them to fully support patients from the Armed Forces community."

Lord Peter Smith, leader of Wigan Council and chair of GM health partnership said: "Over the past eight months, this service has provided a valuable link between military personnel and the support that they need and deserve.

"We are elated that Wigan Borough has led the way and the success of our partnership with DMWS and the pilot means that military families across Greater Manchester will now benefit from this resource.

"As a direct result of the work of DMWS, families are now receiving co-ordinated support such as emotional, practical, housing and financial advice, which has helped to enable earlier hospital discharge. The funding of nearly £1m over two years brings together services that help to improve the wellbeing of our aged veterans across the region."

In addition, the project will play an important part in Greater Manchester devolution arrangements and the work being carried out on the integration of health and social care, highlighting the services that can support our Armed Forces community.

The project will ensure that veterans aged 65 and over will get this support by identifying ex-serving personnel as they enter the hospital services, triggering a referral to DMWS Welfare Officers.

DMWS is an independent charity which has delivered specialist welfare support to serving, veterans and families since the Second World War.

Anyone can refer to DMWS including GPs, hospital staff, services, organisations, families or via self-referral.

For more information:

Email: lleece@dmws.org.uk

or Linda.Fisher@wigan.gov.uk

Web: www.dmws.org.uk



X-Forces are go...



Over five hundred new businesses have been launched by the UK's military community, assisted by a specialist planning and advisory service.

Since its launch in July 2013 X-Forces has nurtured and guided over five hundred new businesses and facilitated over £5 million in seed funding, as an official partner of the government's Start Up Loans Company.

X-Forces is a social enterprise that encourages entrepreneurial ambition in the UK military community, supporting start-up businesses and delivering innovative career opportunities.

The five hundredth business to launch produces an innovative range of children's cutlery, run by an ex-RAF Servicewoman.

Ex-Servicewoman, Rosie Phelps, and her sister, Catherine Dodd, have received support from X-Forces for their innovative range of children's cutlery. Dodd combines Rosie's business acumen with Cat's creativity and, after a two-year journey through research, design, manufacturing and crowd funding, the strikingly different products are now on sale. The products are the first of their kind, taking a new approach to the grip of a tiny hand, and give parents a solution to mealtime heartaches.

Dodd has been supported by X-Forces, guiding the sisters to access the crucial funds required to begin manufacturing the first batch of product. Rosie said: "From the start, X-Forces showed a strong belief in me as an ex-Service entrepreneur, and understood our drive and determination to succeed. The X-Forces advisors are very knowledgeable, their processes are very thorough and they take extra care in assessing whether your business is viable so they can lend responsibly. It is fantastic that this support is available to nurture the potential that comes out of the Armed Forces."

Cat and Rosie's innovative cutlery in action



The MOD has appointed X-Forces as the Business Enterprise Trainer for the Career Transition Partnership, delivering support and training to those expressing an interest in business ownership and self-employment as part of their resettlement journey.

Each of the 500 businesses now launched has undergone a rigorous process of business planning with their allocated business advisor, who remains alongside the candidate on their journey. Through unique corporate partnerships with industry leaders like EMC, RBS, Barclays and Cisco, the new business owners are further supported with mentorship and networking. Each week X-Forces receive one hundred new registrations.

CEO and Founder of X-Forces, Ren Kapur, said: "It is so rewarding for us to be able help more and more of the capable and hard-working members of our Armed Forces community to realise their dreams. These 500 first businesses are already contributing to the UK economy, providing employment and making opportunities, and we are very proud of the framework we've built to support them."

For further information go to www.x-forces.com

Rosie Phelps
and her sister
Catherine
Dodd



Sign up to *Veterans World* email alerts



Veterans World is now a fully digital magazine issued 8 times a year.

Make sure you never miss updates from *Veterans World* by signing up for our free email alerts when a new edition is published. Just send your name, the organisation you work for (if relevant) and email address to Veterans-UK-veteransworld@mod.uk

Veterans World now includes regular features on:



Accommodation & Housing



special housing and accommodation projects for veterans



Healthcare



special healthcare programmes for veterans from the NHS, charities and other providers



Working in Partnership



sharing best practice to better support our veterans community



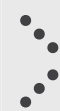
Education, Training and Employment



leaving the forces and helping veterans find work and improve their skills



Family Matters



support for families including those bereaved by service