



Sheffield City Council Armed Forces Community Newsletter

Edition Number 3

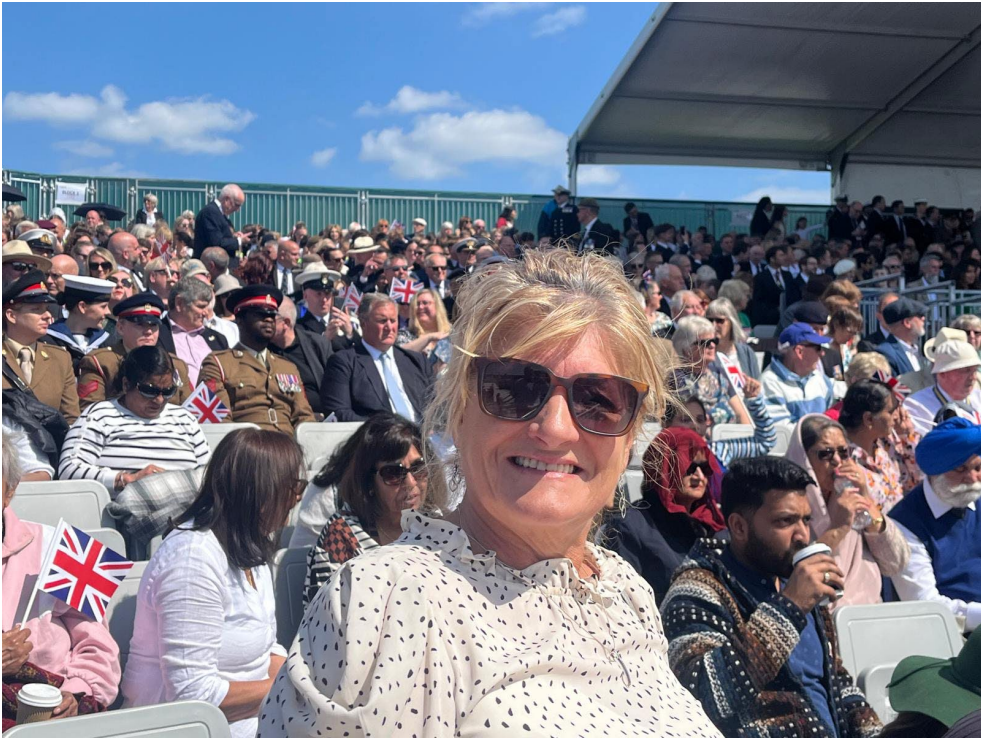
Welcome!

Hello and welcome to the third edition of our Armed Forces Newsletter, produced by Sheffield City Council and issued on behalf of Sheffield's Community Covenant Partnership Board. We start this edition with a welcome from the Council's Armed Forces Champion, Councillor Denise Fox:

Welcome to the Summer Newsletter. As you will see we have been busy with various events and meetings. Making connections with Housing, NHS and armed forces charities to make sure that we get contacts for our veterans, reservists and cadets.

I was recently invited to speak at a webinar that Amco Giffen had organised for their employees. They wanted to raise the profile of the fact that they have a covenant for their veterans' reservists and cadets. It was so refreshing to see that the company have reached out to their employees and taken it seriously by having a covenant where they have already achieved the bronze award, recognising their support for the Armed Forces Community. The Managers and HR wanted to make sure that the Armed Forces Community are never disadvantaged.

I was also honoured to be invited to the D-Day 80 commemorations in Portsmouth. It was a very memorable day that I will never forget. It was also very emotional, listening to the veterans talking about their experiences and the part they played in 'Operation Overlord' on the 6th June 1944. It really brought it home to me how much we owe these brave men and women. They fought for our freedom and democracy. We should never forget the contributions the services made - and still do make - for us all to live freely and in peace. Here are some photos of my day:





Next year will be the 80th anniversary of the end of World War 2 and Sheffield is planning to commemorate this at the Armed Forces and Veterans Day on 21st June. We will be informing people later on in the year about the details, but please get in touch if you want to be involved.

Sheffield Community Covenant Partnership Board (SCCPB) update

The Armed Forces Covenant ensures that services:

- recognise the contribution made by the Armed Forces Community
- remember the sacrifices made by members of the Armed Forces Community
- share knowledge, experience and expertise to provide help and advice to members of the Armed Forces Community
- encourage the integration from service life into civilian life

The Sheffield Community Covenant Partnership Board's most recent meeting was on 10th April. The minutes of that meeting will shortly be available on the Sheffield City Council Armed Forces website. Amongst other things the Board welcomed a number of new members, was brought up to speed on the Royal College of GPs Veteran Friendly Accreditation Process, learned about the role of Reed in Partnership in facilitating the employment of veterans, and heard from the founder of the recently launched Armed Forces and Veterans Breakfast Club in Sheffield.

The Armed Forces and Veterans Breakfast Club in Sheffield

Sheffield Armed Forces and Veterans Breakfast Club is a group of veterans & serving personnel across all tri-services of HM Forces. Our ethos is simply mutual support; it works because we all have a similar humour and outlook, and the social life we now enjoy is like our service days. Our club meets weekly on a Saturday morning from 09:30hrs onwards both at:

Elmwood Farm S20 1DJ and Woodseats Palace S8 0SD on alternate weeks.

We also meet socially on nights out, BBQ's, parties, family occasions, and Christmas parties and we network among the variety of trades and other veteran communities we all now work in.

Sheffield AFVBC is free to attend with only your breakfast to pay for; however breakfasts are supported for all WW2 veterans if needed. All services personnel, veterans and their families, are free to turn up and you will be made very welcome.

You can find us on facebook (Sheffield Armed Forces and Veterans Breakfast Club) and www.sheffieldafvbc.co.uk, or drop us an email at sheffield.afvbc@outlook.com for more information. Come along and visit us, we look forward to meeting you soon.

A sad farewell to Tony

Everyone on the Sheffield Community Covenant Partnership Board was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Tony Cooper on 12th June. Tony - Founder and former Chair of the Ex-Services Home Mess (Sheffield) - was a much loved and highly respected member of the Partnership Board, and was unstinting in his desire to do everything possible to find and serve members of the Armed Forces Community in Sheffield. Steve Halton, the current Chair of Home Mess, has sent this tribute:

When Tony died a light was extinguished in the world of Sheffield Veterans across all three Services. He will be greatly missed by all of us.

Tony was always ready to help any Veteran in any way he could. He made himself available 24/7 for any Comrades to call him.

Tony formed the Ex-Services Home Mess (Sheffield) Charity in November 2014, and 10 years on the Charity is as busy as ever, supporting Veterans in a number of ways. But most of all – thanks to Tony - we have a special place, the Home Mess Veterans Room, where we can socialise, hold events, combat loneliness, support those with Mental Health issues and feel valued amongst Comrades. Without Tony, this would not have been possible.

Tony served in the RAF, mainly working on the Vulcan bombers, earning the nickname 'Vulcan'. He was a bit of a character and the following story tells its own tale: A new Standard was paraded at his Station. The following day Tony was asked by his Warrant Officer if he liked the new Standard. "I haven't

seen it", volunteered Tony. "What do you mean you haven't seen it - you were on Parade yesterday." "Well Sir, I'm small and the bloke in front of me was six foot." They had a second parade just for Tony. Every Home Mess Social was subject to a joke or two from Tony.

Not many know that after his Service Tony spent many weekends as a Voluntary Ranger in Derbyshire often rescuing injured or lost hikers.



His duty is done, may he rest in peace.

If anyone would like to know more about Ex-Services Home Mess, their regular Social events - which include a free buffet - take place every 2nd Friday and 3rd Monday of each month, starting 7pm, at the Home Mess Veterans Room, Farm Road Sports and Social Club, Farm Road, S2 2TP. All Veterans and their families are welcome. Please see <https://www.facebook.com/groups/hmveteransroom/> for any updates or contact Steve on email renshalt@gmail.com or by calling 07901 551583.

The Sheffield Armed Forces Directory

A quick reminder that Sheffield City Council produces an Armed Forces Directory which directs members of the Armed Forces Community in the city to sources of help, support and advice both locally and nationally. The Directory is available online at www.sheffield.gov.uk/armedforces or paper copies can be made available (please contact Paul.Taylor@sheffield.gov.uk).

Armed Forces and Veterans Day in Sheffield 2024

This year's Armed Forces and Veteran Day in Sheffield took place on Saturday 22nd June. The day saw the usual veterans parade, and speakers at the event included the Lord Mayor of Sheffield, Cllr Jayne Dunn, the Council's Armed Forces Champion, Cllr Denise Fox, and Pat Davey, Chairman of The Sheffield And District Joint Council of Ex-Service Associations. On what was a sunny afternoon, everyone was entertained by the Ashby Big Band.

A number of organisations hosted stalls at the event, giving details of how they can and do support members of the Armed Forces Community in Sheffield. These included Sheffield City Council, Ex-Services Home Mess (Sheffield), the Armed Forces and Veterans Breakfast Club, the Forces Employment Charity and Amco Geffen (an organisation with a specific interest in employing veterans).

Army and Air Cadets, and South Yorkshire Police also came along with displays and attractions.

There was strong interest shown by our citizens in the stalls and activities, acknowledging the sterling service given by the Armed Forces community and veterans.





Planning is already under way for Armed Forces Day 2025 and if anyone has any ideas about what they would like to see on the day, or what would make the day attractive for potential attendees, we would be very happy to hear from you.

Preparing for Edition #4

That's all for this edition; we would love to hear any thoughts about this newsletter or about anything that you might want to see included in future editions. Please contact Paul Taylor – Paul.Taylor@sheffield.gov.uk You can also contact Paul if you would like paper copies of this newsletter.